This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

HDI
HW 37KV B

Carols and Poems.

Digitized by Google

25258
36B

HARVARD COLLEGE
LIBRARY

FROM THE LIBRARY OF
HERBERT EVELETH GREENE
Class of 1881
Professor of English
in the
Johns Hopkins University
1893–1925
GIVEN IN HIS MEMORY
BY HIS FAMILY
1945

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Herbert Eveleth Greene
London, 1888.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

A Christmas Garland.

Digitized by Google

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.
Who ys there that syngith so nowell, nowell, nowell?

I am here, syre Cristmasse:
Well come, my lord syre Cristmasse,
Welcome to vs all bothe more & lasse,
Com ner, nowell.

Wiebs wous garde, bewe syre, tydynges y you bryng,
A mayde hath born a chylde full yong
The weche causeth yew for to syng,
Nowell.

Criste is now born of a pure mayde,
In an oxe stalle he ys layde,
Wher'for syng we alle atte abrayde,
Nowell.

Bebbex bien par tutte la company,
Make gode chere and be rycht mery,
And syng with vs now ioyfully,
Nowell.

Digitized by Google

CAROLS AND POEMS

FROM

THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY TO
THE PRESENT TIME

EDITED BY

A. H. BULLEN, B.A.

LONDON
JOHN C. NIMMO
14, KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.
1886

Digitized by Google

25258.36
v B

Digitized by Google

To my Wife.

When skies were blue and hearts were gay,
We wandered in the prime of May
By primrose-banks, and where the breeze
Shook snow-bloom from the cherry-trees,
And golden gorse stretched leagues away.

When August eves were cool and sweet,
We watched the slant rays gild the wheat,
Or far down woodland alleys lone
Heard stock-doves make delicious moan,
And chid the hours that flew so fleet.

Now, while the twinkling shadows fall
Athwart the casement and the wall,
Beside the fire-light's ruddy gleam,
As day goes down, we muse and dream,
And all our past delights recall.

Tho' envious mists usurp the morn,
And mire lies deep in ways forlorn,
Sweet Heart, while Love our feet shall guide,
What ills, forsooth, can us betide
Who laugh the darkling days to scorn?

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Contents.

—o—

	PAGE
DEDICATION	v
PREFACE	xiii

Part I.

CHRISTMAS CHANTS AND CAROLS.

In every place I shall tell this (Coventry Mysteries)	1
Welcome Yule	2
I sing of a maiden	4
In Excelsis Gloria	6
The first Nowell the Angel did say	7
In Bethlehem that noble place	10
A New Carol of our Lady	12
The Virgin and Child	15
About the field they piped full right	19
This endnes night I saw a sight	21
I saw three ships come sailing in	23
As I sat under a sycamore tree	25
My sweet little baby, &c.	26
Joseph was an old man	29
Saint Stephen was a Clerk	33
Remember, O thou Man	36
God rest you, merry gentlemen	40
To-morrow shall be my dancing day	43
The Holy Well	46
The Carnal and the Crane	49
Joys Seven	55
The moon shines bright	58

Digitized by Google

PAGE

A Virgin most pure 61
The Saviour of all people 64
A Christmas Carol (by Robert Herrick) 66
The contest of the Ivy and the Holly 68
Modryb Marya (by R. S. Hawker) 71
The Child Jesus (by R. S. Hawker) 73
The Shepherds went their hasty way (by S. T. Coleridge) . 75
In the bleak mid-winter (by Miss Christina G. Rossetti) . 78
Masters, in this hall (by Mr. William Morris) . . . 80
Outlanders, whence come ye last (by Mr. William Morris) 84
Three damsels in the Queen's chamber (by Mr. A. C. Swinburne) 87

Part II.

CARMINA SACRA.

On the morning of Christ's Nativity (by John Milton) . 91
Who can forget (by Giles Fletcher) 103
The Shepherds (by Henry Vaughan) 106
Christ's Nativity (by Henry Vaughan) 109
New Prince, New Pomp (by Robert Southwell) . . . 111
Christmas (by George Herbert) 113
For Christmas Day (by Bishop Hall) 115
The Shepherd's Song (by E. Bolton) 116
A Hymn on the Nativity of my Saviour (by Ben Jonson) . 118
A Hymn of the Nativity (by Richard Crashaw) . . . 120
A Hymn for the Epiphany (by Richard Crashaw) . . 126
The Angels (by William Drummond) 128
The Shepherds (by William Drummond) 129
Of the Epiphany (by Sir John Beaumont) . . . 130
Where is this blessed Babe (by Jeremy Taylor) . . . 132
Awake, my Soul, and come away (by Jeremy Taylor) . 134

Digitized by Google

PAGE

And they laid Him in a manger (*by Sir Edward Sherburne*) 136
An ode on the Birth of our Saviour (*by Robert Herrick*) . 138
Rejoice, rejoice, with heart and voice (*by Francis Kinwelmersh*) 140
The Virgin's Cradle-Hymn (*by S. T. Coleridge*) . . . 142
A Christmas Lullaby (*by Mr. J. A. Symonds*) 143
A Rocking Hymn (*by George Wither*) 145

Part III.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS AND CHRISTMAS CHEER.

So now is come our joyfulst feast (*by George Wither*) . . 149
Ceremonies for Christmas (*by Robert Herrick*) . . . 154
The Praise of Christmas 157
Old Christmas Returned 162
O you merry, merry souls 168
A Carol. Bringing in the Boar's Head 170
The Boar's Head Carol (*as sung at Queen's College, Oxford*) 171
The Boar's Head Carol (*as sung at St. John's College, Oxford, in* 1607) 172
The Wassail (*by Robert Herrick*) 173
A jolly wassail bowl 176
We wish you merry Christmas (*Wassailing song*) . . . 180
Here we come a whistling 183
Wassail, wassail, all over the town 185
Bring us in good ale 187
Come follow, follow me 189
All you that are good fellows 192
Come, mad boys 194
Come bravely on, my masters 196
My master and dame, I well perceive. 197

Digitized by Google

PAGE

With merry glee and solace 199
In honour of Saint John we thus 202
The New Year is begun 205
The young men and maids on New Year's Day . . . 209
The Old Year now away is fled 211
Provide for Christmas 214
Now thrice welcome, Christmas 215
Now that the time is come wherein 217
Now enter Christmas like a man 219
Now Christmas comes, 'tis fit that we 221
Maids get up and bake your pies 223
To shorten Winter's sadness 225
No news of navies burnt at seas (*by Robert Herrick*) . . 226
Now, now the mirth comes (*by Robert Herrick*) . . . 229
Christmas in the Olden Time (*by Sir Walter Scott*) . . 231
Christmas Minstrelsy (*by William Wordsworth*) . . 234

FAREWELL TO CHRISTMAS.

Mark well my heavy doleful tale 239
Now farewell, good Christmas 242
Christmas hath made an end 244

NOTES 249

Digitized by Google

Preface.

IT is a commonplace with poets to lament over the degeneracy of the times. Even Homer thought the world was in a parlous state, for he twits his countrymen with their feebleness, protesting that two picked men could hardly lift on to a waggon the stone which Hector brandished with ease. The aged ploughman in Lucretius envies the fortune of his forefathers, who gained a comfortable livelihood from a scanty patch of ground; and the sorrowful vineplanter wearies Heaven with his complaints, perceiving not (says the poet) that all things little by little are wasting away by length of days and faring towards the grave. Evermore rises the same wail over the poverty of present times, and evermore we look back wistfully to the past. As one turns the pages of Herrick's "Hesperides," how grey and colourless appears the England of to-day! We have become so serious, so demure, so respectable; we are resolved that the game of life is a desperately earnest business; we read Mr. Shorthouse. "I sing of Maypoles, hock-carts, wassails, wakes!" wrote Herrick. Alack, *nous avons changé tout cela.* Instead of dancing

Digitized by Google

with Julia round a May-pole, he would be expected to attend a May-meeting at Exeter Hall. Flush-cheeked, curly-haired Robin Herrick at a May-meeting! After such an experience he would never have called Devonshire "dull." Country life, as depicted in the "Hesperides," appears to have been one perpetual round of merry-making. Morris dances, Whitsun ale, twelfth-tide kings and queens, stool-ball, shearing-feasts, mummeries, wassailings, shrovings, and the like, are the subjects of the poet's song. It is hard, very hard, in this last quarter of the nineteenth century to realise the life that Herrick led. Perhaps on a closer view much of the brightness of the vision would fade away; but still we can never banish the feeling that something has been lost of the old delight in life, the old buoyancy and freshness that possessed men's hearts before the Puritans gained the mastery.

Such reflections forcibly suggest themselves as Christmastide draws near. We still twine the holly and we still eat mince-pies. In one or two colleges the boar's head is still served up with mustard. But who now-a-days sets a swan on the Christmas board, or who a sturgeon? Where will you find "the carcasses of three fat wethers bruised for gravy to make sauce for a single peacock"?[1] That delightful writer, Nicholas Breton, in his "Fantasticks" (1626), brings vividly home to us the Christmas festivities of the early seventeenth century:—"It is now Christmas, and not a cup of drink

[1] Massinger's "City Madam," ii. 1. (Credat Judæus!)

Digitized by Google

must pass without a carol; the beasts, fowl, and fish come to a general execution, and the corn is ground to dust for the bakehouse and the pastry: cards and dice purge many a purse, and the youth show their agility in shoeing of the wild mare: now, good cheer, and welcome, and God be with you, and I thank you:—and against the New Year provide for the presents:—the Lord of Misrule is no mean man for his time, and the guests of the high table must lack no wine: the lusty bloods must look about them like men, and piping and dancing puts away much melancholy: stolen venison is sweet, and a fat coney is worth money: pit-falls are now set for small birds, and a woodcock hangs himself in a gin: a good fire heats all the house, and a full alms-basket makes the beggar's prayers:—the maskers and the mummers make the merry sport, but if they lose their money their drum goes dead: swearers and swaggerers are sent away to the ale-house, and unruly wenches go in danger of judgment: musicians now make their instruments speak out, and a good song is worth the hearing. In sum it is a holy time, a duty in Christians for the remembrance of Christ and custom among friends for the maintenance of good fellowship. In brief I thus conclude it: I hold it a memory of the Heaven's love and the world's peace, the mirth of the honest, and the meeting of the friendly. Farewell." It is pleasant by the fireside to linger over such a description as that; to try to realise the nut-brown mirth that reigned at Christmastide three centuries ago. Sir John Reresby has left

Digitized by Google

us an interesting account of how he used to observe Christmas. "I returned," he writes[1] in 1684, "to Thrybergh, by God's mercy, in safety, to keep Christmas amongst my neighbours and tenants. I had more company this Christmas than heretofore. The four first days of the new year all my tenants of Thrybergh, Brinsford, Denby, Mexborough, Hooton Roberts, and Rotherham dined with me; the rest of the time some four-score of gentlemen and yeomen with their wives were invited, besides some that came from York; so that all the beds in the house and most in the town were taken up. There were seldom less than four-score, counting all sorts of people, that dined in the house every day, and some days many more. On New Year's Day chiefly there dined above three hundred, so that whole sheep were roasted and served up to feed them. For music I had four violins, besides bagpipes, drums, and trumpets." Nobody could grudge broad acres to a landowner who so well understood hospitality. On another occasion,[2] in 1682, the festivities were on a less lavish scale. There assembled on Christmas Eve nineteen of the poorer tenants from Denby and Hooton; on Christmas Day twenty-six of the poorer tenants from Thrybergh, Brinsford, and Mexborough; on St. Stephen's Day farmers and better sort of tenants to the number of fifty-four; on St. John's Day forty-five of the chief tenants; on the 30th of December eighteen gentlemen of the neighbourhood with their wives; on the 1st of January sixteen gentlemen; on the 4th twelve of the

[1] Memoirs of Sir John Reresby (Camden Society), p. 310.
[2] Ibid., pp. 266–7.

Digitized by Google

neighbouring clergymen; and on the 6th seven gentlemen and tradesmen. Among the guests who lay at the house were "Mr. Rigden, merchant of York, and his wife, *a handsome woman*," and "Mr. Belton, an ingenious clergyman, but too much a good fellow." How gentle is the censure conveyed in the words "too much a good fellow!" Sir John adds: "The expense of liquor, both of wine and others, was considerable, as of other provisions, and my friends appeared well satisfied." So they ought to have been. But all landlords were not like Sir John Reresby, and he tells us himself that few of the gentry in his part of the country observed the festival. Complaints of niggardly housekeeping were constantly being made. In the "Roxburghe Collection" is a very doleful ballad entitled "Christmas' Lamentation for the loss of his acquaintance, showing how he is forced to leave the country and come to London." Hear how it begins:—

"Christmas is my name; far have I gone,
Have I gone, have I gone, have I gone,
Without regard;
Whereas great men by flocks there be flown,
There be flown, there be flown, there be flown,
To London ward;
Where they in pomp and pleasure do waste
That which Christmas was wonted to feast,
Welladay!
Houses where music was wont for to ring,
Nothing but bats and howlets do sing,
Welladay, welladay, welladay!
Where should I stay?

Digitized by Google

Christmas beef and bread is turned to stones, &c.
And silken rags;
And lady Money sleeps, and makes moans, &c.
In misers' bags.
Houses where pleasure once did abound,
Nought but a dog and a shepherd is found,
Welladay!
Places where Christmas revels did keep,
Is now become habitations for sheep,
Welladay!"

Poor Robin's Almanac harps perpetually on the same theme. Against such curmudgeons was directed the old carol of *Dives and Lazarus*, which must have been sung at many a rich churl's door to the gratification of a knot of shivering wretches. I give it from an old broadside[1] in the Bodleian.

"As it fell out upon a day
Rich Dives made a feast,
And he invited all his friends
And gentry of the best.

Then Lazarus laid him down and down,
E'en down at Dives' door;
Some meat, some drink, brother Dives,
Bestow upon the poor.

Thou art none of my brother, Lazarus,
That lies begging at the door.
No meat nor drink will I give to thee,
Nor bestow upon the poor.

[1] Printed in the last century by T. Bloomer, 53 Edgbaston Street, Birmingham.

Digitized by Google

Then Lazarus laid him down and down,
E'en down at Dives' wall;
Some meat, some drink, brother Dives,
Or with hunger starve I shall.

Thou art none of my brother, Lazarus,
That lies begging at my wall;
For neither meat nor drink will I give,
But with hunger starve you shall.

Then Lazarus laid him down and down
E'en down at Dives' gate;
Some meat, some drink, brother Dives,
For Jesus Christ His sake.

Thou art none of my brother, Lazarus,
That lies begging at my gate;
No meat nor drink will I give to thee
For Jesus Christ His sake.

Then Dives sent out his merry men,
To whip poor Lazarus away,
They had no power to strike one stroke,
But flung their whips away.

Then Dives sent out his hungry dogs
To bite him as he lay;
They had no power to bite at all,
But licked his sores away.

As it fell out upon a day,
Poor Lazarus sickened and died;
There came two angels out of heaven,
His soul therein to guide.

Digitized by Google

Rise up, rise up, brother Lazarus,
And go along with me,
For you've a place prepared in heaven
Upon an angel's knee.[1]

As it fell out upon a day,
Rich Dives sickened and died ;
There came two serpents out of hell,
His soul therein to guide.

Rise up, rise up, brother Dives,
And go along with me ;
There is prepared a place in hell
From which thou ne'er can flee.

Then Dives looked up with his eyes,
And saw poor Lazarus blest ;
Give a drop of water, brother Lazarus,
To quench my burning thirst.

O had I as many years to abide,
As there are blades of grass,
Then there would be an end, but now
Hell's pains will never pass.

O was I now but alive again,
The space of one half hour ;
O that I'd made my peace secure,
Then the devil should have no power ! "

Churls of the class of Dives will always exist, but one likes to think that there are fewer of them now than formerly. Truly, there is every need to-day for sympathy and charity towards the poor and the afflicted.

[1] Another copy reads :—
" In angels' company."

Digitized by Google

Very pleasant is the obsolete practice of combining devotion and good fellowship. Fancy a modern rhymester hailing the arrival of Christmas after this style !—

> "Now that the time is come wherein
> Our Saviour Christ was born,
> The larders full of beef and pork,
> The garners filled with corn," &c.

Finding these verses in *Poor Robin's Almanac* for 1700, we are charmed by their quaint sincerity. Ah that homely piety and simple-hearted mirth might be revived ! These are dull times. Where are the mummers and the maskers ? Where the Lord of Misrule and the Twelfth-tide kings and queens ? What a poor business is a country-fair to-day ! Smock-races,[1] hot-hasty-pudding contests, and grinning through a horse-collar have been abolished. Merry-go-rounds and shooting-galleries are well-nigh the only attractions. But we must remember that, with many innocent diversions, not a few barbarous sports have been swept away. Cock-fighting still has its supporters in the Black Country, but it is to be hoped that nobody is anxious to revive cock-throwing or goose-riding. In remote districts many good old customs still linger. The wassailers still sing their cheery song, and the Christmas play, with its odd medley of characters, St. George,

[1] So called because the successful girl was presented with a holland smock.

Digitized by Google

the Turk, the Doctor, Beelzebub[1] (sometimes with the addition of Oliver Cromwell and the Duke of Wellington), still delights bucolic audiences. Hone, writing more than half a century ago, anticipated that the practice of singing Christmas carols would be abolished in the course of a few years. His lugubrious prophecy has happily not been fulfilled. "As I sat on a sunny bank," "I saw three ships come sailing in," "God rest you, merry gentlemen," "Remember, O thou man," "The first Nowell the Angel did say," and others, are still sung year after year. But the more fantastic carols seem to be losing ground. "Cherry-tree carol," the finest of all carols, has been shorn of half its beauty by modern prudishness. Every girl and boy should be taught the lovely stanzas beginning, "As Joseph was a-walking" (p. 31). Never were Christ's praises chanted in sweeter, clearer tones. At the present day people are too refined (or should we say—stolid?) to appreciate such strange pieces of composition as "Holy Well," "The moon shines bright," and "The Carnal and the Crane." In the most characteristic carols there is a pathetic wistful melody, as though the singer were yearning to give utterance to the thoughts that crowd his soul. Sometimes, as in the carol beginning "I sing of a maiden" (p. 4), the accents ring clear and sweet, without a flaw. At other times

[1] "Here come I, Beelzebub;
Under my arm I carry a club,
Under my chin I carry a pan,
Don't I look a nice young man?"

Digitized by Google

the language is semi-articulate, woven of cloud-fancies, dim as a half-remembered dream. He must have had true poetic feeling who wrote the following strange carol of *The Seven Virgins:* [1]—

" All under the leaves, and the leaves of life,
I met with virgins seven,
And one of them was Mary mild,
Our Lord's mother of Heaven.

' O what are you seeking, you seven fair maids,
All under the leaves of life;
Come tell, come tell, what seek you
All under the leaves of life?'

' We're seeking for no leaves, Thomas,
But for a friend of thine,
We're seeking for sweet Jesus Christ
To be our guide and thine.'

' Go down, go down to yonder town
And sit in the gallery,
And there you'll see sweet Jesus Christ,
Nailed to a big yew-tree.'

So down they went to yonder town
As fast as foot could fall,
And many a grievous bitter tear
From the Virgin's eye did fall.

' O peace, Mother, O peace, Mother,
Your weeping doth me grieve;
I must suffer this,' he said,
'For Adam and for Eve.'

[1] I have not been able to see an old copy of this piece, which I have taken from an excellent collection of Christmas Carols edited a few years ago by "Joshua Sylvester."

Digitized by Google

'O Mother, take you John Evangelist
All for to be your son,
And he will comfort you sometimes
Mother, as I have done.'

'O come thou, John Evangelist,
Thou'rt welcome unto me,
But more welcome my own dear Son
Whom I nursed on my knee.'

Then he laid his head on his right shoulder,
Seeing death it struck him nigh,—
'The holy Mother be with your soul,
I die, Mother dear, I die.'

O the rose, the gentle rose,
And the fennel that grows so green,
God give us grace in every place
To pray for our king and queen.

Furthermore for our enemies all
Our prayers they should be strong:
Amen, good Lord; your charity
Is the ending of my song."

Sung on the crisp frosty road beneath the flying moon, that pathetic and fantastic strain might well stir the hearers' hearts with far-off wonder and awe. But for some time past it has been a growing practice to sing carols in churches instead of in the open air. Only the less poetical carols are in use, and the element of picturesqueness is fast vanishing. One of the most popular carols is the piece beginning "Good King Wenceslas looked out," written by the Rev. Dr. Neale. The language is poor and commonplace to the last degree.

Digitized by Google

Much has been written about the history of Christmas Carols, and I have no intention in this brief preface of minutely traversing the well-trodden ground. In England the practice of carol-singing appears to have first become widely spread in the 15th century. Many of the pieces collected from MSS. by the labour of Ritson, Wright, and Sandys belong to this early date. We are fortunate in possessing an ancient MS. copy of the *Carol of St. Stephen* (p. 33). Doubtless (in a somewhat altered shape) *The Carnal and the Crane*, *The Holy Well*, and *The Seven Virgins* belong to the 15th century; but no early copies of these pieces, whether in print or MS., are known to exist. The earliest printed collection was issued by Wynkyn de Worde in 1521. Only a fragment of it has descended; and in this fragment Hearne the antiquary found the original version of the famous Boar's Head Carol. A later collection, printed by Richard Kele, was issued about 1550. Specimens from this unique volume were printed in "Bibliographical Miscellanies," 1813, whence I have drawn the pieces beginning, "In Bethlehem that noble place" (p. 10), and "Lords and Ladies all by dene" (p. 12). Other books of so-called Christmas Carols were licensed for printing in the latter part of the 16th century; but the pieces in these collections appear to have been hymns rather than carols. Early in the next century we find a genuine example of a carol, with music, ("Remember, O thou man") in Ravenscroft's "Melismata," 1611. A few years afterwards an attempt to supplant

Digitized by Google

the old carols was made by William Slatyer in "Certaine of David's Psalmes intended for Christmas Carols." At a somewhat later date a few carols, though not of the best kind, are found among the Roxburghe Ballads. In the second half of the last centry T. Bloomer, a Birmingham printer, did good service by printing in broadside form all the traditional carols he could find. Jemmy Catnach, of Great Monmouth Street, Seven Dials, in the second quarter of the present century, was zealous in diffusing the knowledge of Christmas Carols. As the season comes round hawkers still call at villagers' doors with wretchedly-printed slips; but only a few of the old traditional carols continue to circulate.

Alongside of the sacred carols sung in the open air, flourished the jovial carols sung at Christmas feasts. A small black-letter collection of these pieces was published in 1642; another appeared in 1661; a small undated collection belongs probably to the same time; a fourth is dated 1688. These tracts, belonging to the class of books that are most easily thumbed out of existence, are of the rarest possible occurrence. The library of the British Museum does not possess a copy of any of them; but luckily they are all in the Bodleian, bound together in a small duodecimo volume which once belonged to that "facete" (to use the term he applies to Democritus Junior) and ingenious scholar, Antony-à-Wood, the never-to-be-forgotten author of "Athenæ Oxonienses." In the Long Vacation I spent some delightful hours in making copious extracts from these curious tracts,

Digitized by Google

which few previous collectors appear to have examined. It may be that the reader will not find the same pleasure in these old rustic songs as I found. For in truth I was in the mood to enjoy everything. Returning after long absence to Oxford, I thought the old spires and domes had never looked so beautiful before. The studious hush of the Bodleian was charming after the noise of London streets. Before me lay the MS. catalogue, in a 17th-century hand, of the books which Robert Burton bequeathed to the library he loved so well; and as with reverence I turned the pages, the air seemed filling with the ghosts of grand old Oxford scholars, men who lived before the days of competitive examinations and pretentious sciolism; men who loved learning for its own sake, and whose whole life passed as a summer's day. Then the walk in the mellow evening-air with an old fellow student to Foxcomb Hill, and the draught of foaming ale in the inn parlour where I had spent so many jovial hours! But I return to Antony-à-Wood's collection of carols. The reader will perceive that they are genuine specimens of the songs that were sung in farm-houses by shepherds and ploughmen at Christmas feasts in the 17th century. Very touching is the gratitude of the poor fellows for being allowed the run of their teeth :—

"Of delicates so dainty
I see now here is plenty,
Upon this table ready here prepared;
Then let us now give thanks to those

Digitized by Google

That all things friendly thus bestows,
Esteeming not this world that is so hard.

For of the same my master
Hath made me here a taster;
The Lord above requite him for the same!
And so to all within this house
I will drink a full carouse,
With leave of my good master and my dame.

And the Lord be praised
My stomach is well eased,
My bones at quiet may go take their rest;
Good fortune surely followed me
To bring me thus so luckily
To eat and drink so freely of the best."

Their stomachs were sharp-set, and we may be sure they played a nimble knife and fork throughout the whole twelve days. Christmas comes but once a year, so they made the best of their time and lustily trolled the nut-brown bowl in honour of St. Stephen and St. John. One of the most interesting pieces is the New Year's Carol (p. 205), sung by the shepherd, who comes bringing mellow pippins as presents for his master's children, points[1] for the farm-labourers, and pins for the maids. The verses bidding Farewell to Christmas are lugubrious indeed; but the honest fellows doubtless found consolation in the thought that they would feast again next year.

[1] Tagged laces that held up the breeches.

Digitized by Google

Those who spent their Christmas at their own fireside had also carols, but of a soberer sort. The following verses, which evidently cannot boast of a high antiquity, I heard in Berkshire :—

"When I'm at school my father
Is working on the farm,
The harvest he must gather
To keep us all from harm.

My brother is at sea,
My sister's gone from home,
She must in service be
Till merry Christmas come.

We all shall meet together
On merry Christmas Eve ;
We reck not wind or weather
While we our Christmas keep.

All round the rodded (?) earth
Each one might chance to say,
Since last we met in mirth
'Twas merry Christmas Day."

Rather a doleful ditty that ; no mention of goose or mince-pies. At the same time I took down the following slight but pretty rhymes :—

"Sing we all merrily,
Christmas is here,
The day that we love best
Of days in the year.

Digitized by Google

Bring forth the holly,
The box and the bay,
Deck out our cottage
For glad Christmas Day.

Sing we all merrily,
Draw round the fire,
Sister and brother,
Grandson and sire."

It would be easy to write a long dissertation about Christmas ceremonies, for the materials are all to our hand. But as I have no desire to make a parade of cheap learning, I refer the reader to that elaborate and easy accessible work, Brand's "Popular Antiquities." For one who has neither the learning of Brand nor the light touch of Leigh Hunt, it would be impertinent to write at length on so trite a theme. The present volume lays little claim to research. It has been put together in idle moments, and is intended rather for the general reader than for scholars. The orthography of the older pieces has been modernised, but I have endeavoured in all cases to give, as far as possible, a correct text. It may perhaps be thought that a few more old carols should have been included in the First Part. I omitted without hesitation such pieces as "When Jesus Christ was twelve years old" (popular though it is), "The Lord at first had Adam made," "When Cæsar Augustus had rais'd a taxation," "When old father Jacob was ready to die," &c.; but I parted reluctantly from "Blessed be that maid Mary," "Mary

Digitized by Google

mother, meek and mild," "Marvel not, Joseph, on Mary mild," and others. Some readers may be vexed at finding in the Second Part so well-known a poem as Milton's "Ode on the Nativity." I have no particular affection for the poem as a whole, though I greatly admire certain stanzas, and am not blind to the marvellous metrical skill displayed throughout. With the sacred text of Milton I dared not tamper. I felt that I must print the Ode in its integrity or not at all; and I chose the first course. In regard to Crashaw, whose transcendent merits I should be the last to dispute, I had less hesitation. His Hymn of the Nativity I give entire, but of the Hymn for the Epiphany I quote only the opening lines, for the latter part abounds with the most violent conceits. At the end of the volume I have added a few notes. There is a striking poem by Frederick Tennyson, "The Holy Tide," which I should like to have included; but it is far too long. With two stanzas from it I take leave of the reader:—

"The days are sad, it is the Holytide:
The Wintermorn is short, the Night is long;
So let the lifeless Hours be glorified
With deathless thoughts, and echoed in sweet song:
And through the sunset of this purple cup
They will resume the roses of their prime,
And the old Dead will hear us and wake up,
Pass with dim smiles and make our hearts sublime!

The days are sad, it is the Holytide;
Be dusky mistletoes and hollies strown,

Digitized by Google

Sharp as the spear that pierced his sacred side,
Red as the drops upon his thorny crown;
No haggard Passion and no lawless Mirth
Fright off the sombre Muse,—tell sweet old tales,
Sing songs as we sit bending o'er the hearth,
Till the lamp flickers, and the memory fails."

Digitized by Google

PART I.

CHRISTMAS CHANTS AND CAROLS.

From the Coventry Mysteries.

In every Place I shall tell this.

IN every place I shall tell this,
Of a clean maid that God is born,
And in our likeness God now clad is,
Mankind to save that was forlorn;
His mother a maid as she was beforn,
Not foul-polluted as other women be,
But fair and fresh as rose on thorn,
Lily-white, clean with pure virginity.

Digitized by Google

Printed in Ritson's Ancient Songs, Sandys' Carols, etc. (from Sloane MS., 2593, temp. Henry VI.)

Welcome Yule.

Welcome Yule, thou merry man,
In worship of this holy day.

WELCOME be thou, heaven-king,
Welcome born in one morning,
Welcome for whom we shall sing,
Welcome Yule.

Welcome be ye, Stephen and John,
Welcome Innocents every one,
Welcome Thomas Martyr one,
Welcome Yule.

Welcome be ye, good New Year,
Welcome Twelfth Day, both in fere,[1]
Welcome saintès lef[2] and dear,
Welcome Yule.

[1] In fere = in company. [2] Lef = loved.

Digitized by Google

Welcome be ye, Candlemas,
Welcome be ye, Queen of Bliss,
Welcome both to more and less,
Welcome Yule.

Welcome be ye that are here,
Welcome all and make good cheer;
Welcome all, another year,
Welcome Yule.

Digitized by Google

From Wright's Songs and Carols, (Warton Society. A collection printed from Sloane MS. 2593, temp. Henry VI.)

I Sing of a Maiden.

I SING of a maiden
That is makeless;[1]
King of all kings
To her son she ches;[2]
He came also[3] still
There his mother was,
As dew in April
That falleth on the grass.
He came also still
To his mother's bower,
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower.
He came also still
There his mother lay,

[1] Matchless. [2] Chose. [3] As.

Digitized by Google

As dew in April
That falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
God's mother be.

Digitized by Google

From Harleian MS. 5396 (date circ. 1500). Printed in Sandys' Christmas Carols, and other collections.

In Excelsis Gloria.

WHEN Christ was born of Mary free
In Bethlehem in that fair citie,
Angels sungen with mirth and glee,
In Excelsis Gloria!

Herdsmen beheld these angels bright
To them appearèd with great light,
And said, God's son is born this night,
In Excelsis Gloria!

This King is comen to save kind
[Even] in Scripture as we find,
[There]fore this song have we in mind,
In Excelsis Gloria!

[Then, dear] Lord, for thy great grace
[Grant us] in bliss to see thy face,
Where we may sing to thee solace,
In Excelsis Gloria!

Digitized by Google

Printed in Sandys' Christmas Carols, and other collections.

The First Nowell the Angel did say.

THE first Nowell the Angel did say
Was to three poor Shepherds in the fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
In a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a Star
Shining in the East beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, etc.

And by the light of that same Star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the Star wherever it went.
Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

The Star drew nigh to the North-West,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell, etc.

Then did they know assuredly
Within that house the King did lie:
One enter'd in then for to see,
And found the Babe in poverty.

Nowell, etc.

Then enter'd in those Wise Men three
Most reverently upon their knee,
And offer'd there in his presence
Both gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Nowell, etc.

Between an ox-stall and an ass
This Child truly there, born he was;
For want of clothing they did him lay
All in the manger among the hay.

Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Nowell, etc.

If we in our time shall do well,
We shall be free from death and hell;
For God hath prepared for us all
A resting-place in general.

Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

This and the next Carol are from Christmas Carolles 'newely imprinted (circ. 1550), of which only a fragment has come down. Our text is taken from Bibliographical Miscellanies (Oxford, 1813).

In Bethlehem that noble Place.

IN Bethlehem that noble place,
As by prophecy said it was,
Of the Virgin Mary full of grace,
Salvator mundi natus est.
Be we merry in this feast,
In quo salvator natus est.

On Christmas night an angel it told
To the shepherds, keeping their fold,
That into Bethlehem with beasts wold
Salvator mundi natus est.
Be we merry, etc.

The shepherdès were compassed right,
About them was a great light;
Dread ye nought, said the angel bright,
Salvator mundi natus est.
Be we merry, etc.

Digitized by Google

Behold to you we bring great joy;
For why? Jesus is born this day;
To us, of Mary, that mild may,
Salvator mundi natus est.

Be we merry, etc.

And thus in faith find it ye shall,
Lying poorly in an ox-stall.
The shepherds then lauded God all,
Quia Salvator mundi natus est.

Be we merry, etc.

Digitized by Google

A new Carol of our Lady.

LORDS and ladies all by dene[1]
For your goodness and honour,
I will you sing all of a queen;
Of all women she is the flower.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
This said the angel Gabriel.

Of Jesse there sprang a wight,
Isay said by prophecy,
Of whom shall come a man of might,
From death to life he will us buy.
Nowell, etc.

There came an angel bright of face,
Flying from heaven with full great light,
And said, Hail! Mary, full of grace,
For thou shalt bear a man of might.
Nowell, etc.

[1] "All by dene" = forthwith.

Digitized by Google

Astonied was that lady free,
And had marvell of that greeting;
Angel, she said, how may that be,
For never of man I had knowing?

Nowell, etc.

Dread thou nothing, Mary mild,
Thou art fulfilled with great virtue,
Thou shalt conceive and bear a child
That shall be namèd sweet Jesu.

Nowell, etc.

She kneeled down upon her knee;
As thou hast said, so may it be,
With heart, thought and mild cheer,
God's hand-maid I am here.

Nowell, etc.

Then began her womb to spring,
She went with child without man,
He that is lord over all thing,
His flesh and blood of her had than.[1]

Nowell, etc.

[1] Then.

Digitized by Google

Of her was born our heaven-king,
And she a maid never the less;
Therefore be merry and let us sing,
For this new lord of Christmas.

Nowell, Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

From Songs and Carols, now first printed from a manuscript of the fifteenth century; Edited by Thomas Wright, 1847. (Percy Society Publications.)

The Virgin and Child.

THIS endris night[1]
I saw a sight,
A star as bright as day;
And ever among
A maiden sung,
Lullay, by by, lullay.

This lovely lady sat and sang, and to her child [she] said—

"My son, my brother, my father dear, why liest thou thus in hayd?
My sweet bird,[2]
Thus it is betide
Though thou be king veray;
But, nevertheless,
I will not cease
To sing, by by, lullay."

[1] "Endris night"=last night.
[2] Often used as a term of endearment.—In the former line "hayd"=hay.

Digitized by Google

The child then spake; in his talking he to his mother said—

"I bekid[1] am king, in crib though I be laid;
For angels bright
Down to me light,
Thou knowest it is no nay,
And of that sight
Thou mayest be light
To sing, by by, lullay."

"Now, sweet Son, since thou art king, why art thou laid in stall?
Why not thou ordain thy bedding in some great king's hall?
Methinketh it is right
That king or knight
Should be in good array;
And them among
It were no wrong
To sing, by by, lullay."

"Mary, mother, I am thy child, though I be laid in stall,
Lords and dukes shall worship me and so shall kingès all.

[1] *i.e.* it happens that I am king.

Digitized by Google

Ye shall well see
That kingès three
Shall come on the twelfth day;
For this behest
Give me thy breast,
And sing, by by, lullay."

"Now tell me, sweet Son, I thee pray, thou art my love and dear,
How should I keep thee to thy pay[1] and make thee glad of cheer?
For all thy will
I would fulfil
Thou weet'st[2] full well in fay,
And for all this
I will thee kiss,
And sing, by by, lullay."

"My dear mother, when time it be, take thou me up aloft,
And set me upon thy knee and handle me full soft.
And in thy arm
Thou wilt me warm,
And keep [me] night and day;

[1] Content. [2] Knowest.

Digitized by Google

If I weep
And may not sleep
Thou sing, by by, lullay."

"Now, sweet Son, since it is so, all things are at thy will,
I pray thee grant to me a boon if it be right and skill,[1]
That child or man,
That will or can,
Be merry upon my day;
To bliss them bring,
And I shall sing,
Lullay, by by, lullay."

[1] Fitting, reasonable.

Digitized by Google

From Wright's Songs and Carols (Percy Society).

About the field they piped full right.

Tyrle, tyrle, so merrily the shepherds began to blow.

ABOUT the field they piped full right,
Even about the midst of the night;
Adown from heaven they saw come a light.
Tyrle, tyrle.

Of angels there came a company
With merry songs and melody.
The shepherds anon gan them espy.
Tyrle, tyrle.

Gloria in excelsis the angels sung,
And said who [how?] peace was present among
To every man that to the faith would long.
Tyrle, tyrle.

The shepherds hied them to Bethlehem
To see that blessed sun's beam;
And there they found that glorious stream.
Tyrle, tyrle.

Digitized by Google

Now pray we to that meek child,
And to his mother that is so mild,
The which was never defiled.

Tyrle, tyrle.

That we may come unto his bliss,
Where joy shall never miss;
That we may sing in Paradise.

Tyrle, tyrle.

I pray you all that be here
For to sing and make good cheer,
In the worship of God this year.

Tyrle, tyrle.

Digitized by Google

Printed in Sandys' Christmas Carols from Add. MS. 5165 (ancient songs temp. Henry VII. and VIII.)

This Endnes Night I saw a Sight.

AH, my dear Son, said Mary, ah, my dear,
Kiss thy mother, Jesu, with a laughing cheer.

This endnes[1] night I saw a sight
All in my sleep,
Mary, that may, she sang lullay
And sore did weep;
To keep she sought full fast about
Her Son from cold.
Joseph said, Wife, my joy, my life,
Say what ye would.
Nothing, my spouse, is in this house
Unto my pay;[2]
My Son a king, that made all thing,
Lieth in hay.

Ah, my dear Son! &c.

[1] Last. [2] Content.

Digitized by Google

My mother dear, amend your cheer
And now be still;
Thus for to lie it is soothly
My Father's will.
Derision, great passion,
Infinitely,
As it is found many a wound
Suffer shall I;
On Calvary that is so high
There shall I be,
Man to restore, nailèd full sore
Upon a tree.
Ah, my dear Son! &c.

Digitized by Google

A very popular Carol, printed in many collections.

I saw Three Ships come Sailing in.

I SAW three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And what was in those ships all three
On Christmas day in the morning?

Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Pray whither sailed those ships all three
On Christmas day in the morning?

Digitized by Google

O they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
O they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas day in the morning.

Digitized by Google

A more modern version of the preceding Carol. Communicated by A. A. to "Notes and Queries," 3d series, iii. 7. It used to be sung in Mid-Kent.

As I sat under a Sycamore Tree.

AS I sat under a sycamore tree, a sycamore tree, a sycamore tree,
I looked me out upon the sea,
A Christmas day in the morning.

I saw three ships a-sailing there, a-sailing there, a-sailing there,
The Virgin Mary and Christ they bare,
A Christmas day in the morning.

He did whistle, and she did sing, she did sing, she did sing,
And all the bells on earth did ring,
A Christmas day in the morning.

And now we hope to taste your cheer, taste your cheer, taste your cheer,
And wish you all a happy new year,
A Christmas day in the morning.

Digitized by Google

From Byrd's Psalmes, Sonets, etc., 1588.

My sweet little Baby, what meanest thou to cry?

MY sweet little baby, what meanest thou to cry?
Be still, my blessed babe, though cause thou hast to mourn,
Whose blood most innocent to shed the cruel king hath sworn;
And lo, alas! behold what slaughter he doth make,
Shedding the blood of infants all, sweet Saviour, for thy sake.
A King, a King is born, they say, which King this king would kill:
O woe and woeful heavy day when wretches have their will!
Lulla, la lulla, lulla lullaby.

Three kings this King of kings to see are come from far,
To each unknown, with offerings great, by guiding of a star;

Digitized by Google

And shepherds heard the song, which angels bright
did sing,
Giving all glory unto God for coming of this King,
Which must be made away—King Herod would him
kill;
O woe and woeful heavy day when wretches have their
will!

Lulla, &c.

Lo, lo, my little babe, be still, lament no more;
From fury thou shalt step aside, help have we still in
store:
We heavenly warning have some other soil to seek;
From death must fly the Lord of life, as lamb both
mild and meek:
Thus must my babe obey the king that would him
kill;
O woe and woeful heavy day when wretches have their
will!

Lulla, &c.

But thou shalt live and reign, as sibyls hath foresaid,
As all the prophets prophecy, whose mother, yet a
maid

Digitized by Google

And perfect virgin pure, with her breasts shall upbreed
Both God and man that all hath made, the son of heavenly seed:
Whom caitives none can tray, whom tyrants none can kill:
O joy and joyful happy day when wretches want their will!

Lulla, &c.

Digitized by Google

Known as Cherry Tree Carol. Concerning the text see notes.

Joseph was an Old Man.

I.

JOSEPH was an old man,
And an old man was he,
When he wedded Mary
In the land of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary walked
Through an orchard good,
Where was cherries and berries
So red as any blood.

Joseph and Mary walked
Through an orchard green,
Where was berries and cherries
As thick as might be seen.

O then bespoke Mary,
So meek and so mild,
Pluck me one cherry, Joseph,
For I am with child.

Digitized by Google

O then bespoke Joseph,
With words most unkind,
Let him pluck thee a cherry
That brought thee with child.

O then bespoke the babe
Within his mother's womb—
Bow down then the tallest tree
For my mother to have some.

Then bowed down the highest tree
Unto his mother's hand:
Then she cried, See, Joseph,
I have cherries at command.

O then bespake Joseph,—
I have done Mary wrong;
But cheer up, my dearest,
And be not cast down.

O eat your cherries, Mary,
O eat your cherries now,
O eat your cherries, Mary,
That grow upon the bough.

Digitized by Google

Then Mary plucked a cherry
As red as the blood;
Then Mary went home
With her heavy load.

II.

As Joseph was a-walking
He heard an angel sing:—
"This night shall be born
Our Heavenly King;

"He neither shall be born
In housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise,
But in an ox's stall;

"He neither shall be clothed
In purple nor in pall,
But all in fair linen
As were babies all.

"He neither shall be rocked
In silver nor in gold,
But in a wooden cradle
That rocks on the mould.

Digitized by Google

"He neither shall be christened
In white wine nor red,
But with fair spring water
With which we were christenèd."

III.

Then Mary took her young son
And set him on her knee:
I pray thee now, dear child,
Tell how this world shall be.

O I shall be as dead, mother,
As the stones in the wall;
O the stones in the streets, mother,
Shall mourn for me all.

Upon Easter-day, mother,
My uprising shall be;
O the sun and the moon, mother,
Shall both rise with me.

Digitized by Google

From Sloane MS. 2593. The MS. was printed in 1856 by Thomas Wright for the Warton Society.

Saint Stephen was a Clerk.

SAINT STEPHEN was a clerk
In King Herod's hall,
And servèd him of bread and cloth
As ever king befall.

Stephen out of kitchen came,
With boar's head on hand,
He saw a star was fair and bright
Over Bethlehem stand.

He kist[1] adown the boar's head
And went into the hall:
"I forsake thee, King Herod,
And thy workès all.

[1] Cast.

Digitized by Google

"I forsake thee, King Herod,
And thy workès all;
There is a child in Bethlehem born
Is better than we all."

"What aileth thee, Stephen?
What is thee befall?
Lacketh thee either meat or drink
In King Herod's hall?"

"Lacketh me neither meat ne drink
In King Herod's hall;
There is a child in Bethlehem born
Is better than we all."

"What aileth thee, Stephen?
Art thou wode [1] or thou ginnest to breed? [2]
Lacketh thee either gold or fee
Or any rich weed?" [3]

"Lacketh me neither gold nor fee,
Ne none rich weed;
There is a child in Bethlehem born
Shall helpen us at our need."

[1] Mad. [2] Upbraid. [3] Dress.

Digitized by Google

"That is also sooth,[1] Stephen,
Also sooth i-wis[2]
As this capon crowè shall
That lieth here in my dish."

That word was not so soon said,
That word in that hall,
The capon crew *Christus natus est*
Among the lordès all.

"Riseth up, my tormentors,
By two and all by one,
And leadeth Stephen out of this town,
And stoneth him with stone."

Tooken they Stephen
And stoned him in the way,
And therefore is his even
On Christès own day.

[1] "Also sooth"=as true. [2] Assuredly.

Digitized by Google

First printed in Ravenscroft's Melismata, Musical Phansies fitting the court, city, and country humours (1611).

Remember, O thou Man.

REMEMBER, O thou Man,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
Remember, O thou Man,
Thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou Man,
How thou camest to me than,[1]
And I did what I can,
Therefore repent.

Remember Adam's fall,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
Remember Adam's fall
From Heaven to Hell.
Remember Adam's fall,
How we were condemned all
To Hell perpetual,
There for to dwell.

[1] Old form of *then*.

Digitized by Google

Remember God's goodness,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
Remember God's goodness
And promise made.
Remember God's goodness,
How his only Son he sent
Our sins for to redress,
Be not afraid.

The Angels all did sing,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
The Angels all did sing
On Sion hill.
The Angels all did sing
Praises to our heavenly king,
And peace to man living,
With right good will.

The Shepherds amazed was,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
The Shepherds amazed was
To hear the Angels sing.
The Shepherds amazed was
How this should come to pass,
That Christ our Messias
Should be our King.

Digitized by Google

To Bethlehem did they go,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
To Bethlehem did they go,
This thing to see.
To Bethlehem did they go
To see whether it was so,
Whether Christ was born or no,
To set us free.

As the Angels before did say,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
As the Angels before did say,
So it came to pass.
As the Angels before did say,
They found him wrapt in hay
In a manger where he lay,
So poor he was.

In Bethlehem was he born,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
In Bethlehem was he born
For mankind dear.
In Bethlehem was he born
For us that were forlorn,
And therefore took no scorn
Our sins to bear.

Digitized by Google

In a manger laid he was,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
In a manger laid he was
At this time present.
In a manger laid he was,
Between an ox and an ass,
And all for our trespass,
Therefore repent.

Give thanks to God always,
O thou Man, O thou Man;
Give thanks to God always
With hearts most jolly.
Give thanks to God always
Upon this blessed day,
Let all men sing and say,
Holy, Holy.

Digitized by Google

The most popular of Christmas Carols.

God rest you merry, Gentlemen.

GOD rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on
Christmas day.

In Bethlehem in Jewry
This blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn;
The which his mother Mary
Nothing did take in scorn.
O tidings, &c.

Digitized by Google

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
O tidings, &c.

Fear not, then said the angel,
Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Saviour
Of virtue, power, and might;
So frequently to vanquish all
The friends of Satan quite.
O tidings, &c.

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
This blessed babe to find.
O tidings, &c.

Digitized by Google

But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling
Unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings, &c.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.
O tidings, &c.

Digitized by Google

This and the six following pieces have been frequently printed in broadside form, and in collections of Carols.

To-morrow shall be my Dancing Day.

TO-MORROW shall be my dancing day,
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a Virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

Digitized by Google

Then afterwards baptized I was,
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

Into the desert I was led,
Where I fasted without substance;
The Devil bade me make stones my bread,
To have me break my true love's dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

The Jews on me they make great suit,
And with me made great variance,
Because they lov'd darkness rather than light,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

For thirty pence Judas me sold,
His covetousness for to advance;
Mark whom I kiss, the same do hold,
The same is he shall lead the dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

Digitized by Google

Before Pilate the Jews me brought,
Where Barabbas had deliverance;
They scourg'd me and set me at nought,
Judged me to die to lead the dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

Then on the cross hanged I was,
Where a spear to my heart did glance;
There issued forth both water and blood,
To call my true love to my dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

Then down to hell I took my way
For my true love's deliverance,
And rose again on the third day
Up to my true love and the dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

Then up to heaven I did ascend,
Where now I dwell in sure substance,
On the right hand of God, that man
May come unto the general dance.
Sing, oh! &c.

Digitized by Google

The Holy Well.

AS it fell out one May morning,
And upon one bright holiday,
Sweet Jesus asked of his dear mother,
If he might go to play.

To play, to play, sweet Jesus shall go,
And to play pray get you gone;
And let me hear of no complaint
At night when you come home.

Sweet Jesus went down to yonder town,
As far as the Holy Well,
And there did see as fine children
As any tongue can tell.

He said, God bless you every one,
And your bodies Christ save and see:
Little children, shall I play with you,
And you shall play with me?

Digitized by Google

But they made answer to him, No:
They were lords' and ladies' sons;
And he, the meanest of them all,
Was but a maiden's child, born in an ox's stall.

Sweet Jesus turned him around,
And he neither laughed nor smiled,
But the tears came trickling from his eyes
Like water from the skies.

Sweet Jesus turned him about,
To his mother's dear home went he,
And said, I have been in yonder town,
As far as you can see.

I have been down in yonder town
As far as the Holy Well,
There did I meet as fine children
As any tongue can tell.

I bid God bless them every one,
And their bodies Christ save and see:
Little children, shall I play with you,
And you shall play with me?

Digitized by Google

But they made answer to me, No:
They were lords' and ladies' sons;
And I, the meanest of them all,
Was but a maiden's child, born in an ox's stall.

Though you are but a maiden's child,
Born in an ox's stall,
Thou art the Christ, the King of heaven,
And the Saviour of them all.

Sweet Jesus, go down to yonder town
As far as the Holy Well,
And take away those sinful souls,
And dip them deep in hell.

Nay, nay, sweet Jesus said,
Nay, nay, that may not be;
For there are too many sinful souls
Crying out for the help of me.

Digitized by Google

The Carnal and the Crane.

AS I pass'd by a river side,
And there as I did reign,[1]
In argument I chanced to hear
A Carnal[2] and a Crane.

The Carnal said unto the Crane,
If all the world should turn,
Before we had the Father,
But now we have the Son!

From whence does the Son come?
From where and from what place?
He said, In a manger,
Between an ox and ass!

I pray thee, said the Carnal,
Tell me before thou go,
Was not the mother of Jesus
Conceived by the Holy Ghost?

[1] A corruption of *rein*=run.

[2] Crow?

Digitized by Google

She was the purest Virgin,
And the cleanest from sin;
She was the handmaid of our Lord,
And mother of our King.

Where is the golden cradle
That Christ was rocked in?
Where are the silken sheets
That Jesus was wrapt in?

A manger was the cradle
That Christ was rocked in;
The provender the asses left
So sweetly he slept on.

There was a star in the West land,
So bright did it appear
Into King Herod's chamber,
And where King Herod were.

The Wise Men soon espied it,
And told the king on high,
A princely babe was born that night
No king could e'er destroy.

If this be true, King Herod said,
As thou tellest unto me,

Digitized by Google

This roasted cock that lies in the dish
Shall crow full fences [1] three.

The cock soon freshly feathered was
By the work of God's own hand,
And then three fences crowèd he
In the dish where he did stand.

Rise up, rise up, you merry men all,
See that you ready be,
All children under two years old
Now slain they all shall be.

Then Jesus, ah! and Joseph,
And Mary, that was so pure,
They travelled into Egypt,
As you shall find it sure.

And when they came to Egypt's land,
Amongst those fierce wild beasts,
Mary, she being weary,
Must needs sit down to rest.

Come sit thee down, says Jesus,
Come sit thee down by me,
And thou shalt see how these wild beasts
Do come and worship me.

[1] Rounds.

Digitized by Google

First came the lovely lion,
Which Jesu's grace did spring,
And of the wild beasts in the field,
The lion shall be the king.

We'll choose our virtuous princes,
Of birth and high degree,
In every sundry nation,
Where'er we come and see.

Then Jesus, ah! and Joseph,
And Mary, that was unknown,
They travelled by a husbandman,
Just while his seed was sown.

God speed thee, man! said Jesus,
Go fetch thy ox and wain,
And carry home thy corn again,
Which thou this day hast sown.

The husbandman fell on his knees,
Even before his face;
Long time hast thou been looked for,
But now thou art come at last.

Digitized by Google

And I myself do now believe
Thy name is Jesus called;
Redeemer of mankind thou art,
Though undeserving all.

The truth, man, thou hast spoken,
Of it thou may'st be sure,
For I must lose my precious blood
For thee and thousands more.

If any one should come this way,
And inquire for me alone,
Tell them that Jesus passed by,
As thou thy seed did sow.

After that there came King Herod,
With his train so furiously,
Inquiring of the husbandman,
Whether Jesus passed by.

Why, the truth it must be spoke,
And the truth it must be known,
For Jesus passed by this way
When my seed was sown.

Digitized by Google

But now I have it reapen,
And some laid on my wain,
Ready to fetch and carry
Into my barn again.

Turn back, says the Captain,
Your labour and mine's in vain,
It's full three quarters of a year
Since he his seed has sown.

So Herod was deceivèd
By the work of God's own hand,
And further he proceeded
Into the Holy Land.

There's thousands of children young,
Which for his sake did die,
Do not forbid those little ones,
And do not them deny.

The truth now I have spoken,
And the truth now I have shown
Even the blessed Virgin,
She's now brought forth a Son.

Digitized by Google

Joys Seven.

THE first good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of one,
To see her own Son Jesus
To suck at her breast bone;
To suck at her breast bone,
Good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
And Christ to eternity.

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of two,
To see her own Son Jesus
To make the lame to go;
To make the lame to go,
Good man, &c.

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of three,

Digitized by Google

To see her own Son Jesus
To make the blind to see;
To make the blind to see,
Good man, &c.

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of four,
To see her own Son Jesus
To read the Bible o'er;
To read the Bible o'er,
Good man, &c.

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of five,
To see her own Son Jesus
To raise the dead alive;
To raise the dead alive,
Good man, &c.

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of six,
To see her own Son Jesus
To wear the crucifix;
To wear the crucifix,
Good man, &c.

Digitized by Google

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of seven,
To see her own Son Jesus
To wear the crown of Heaven;
To wear the crown of Heaven,
Good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
And Christ to eternity.

Digitized by Google

The Moon Shines Bright.

THE moon shines bright, and the stars give a light
A little before it was day,
Our Lord, our God, he called on us,
And bid us awake and pray.

Awake, awake, good people all,
Awake, and you shall hear,
Our Lord, our God, died on the cross,
For us whom he loved so dear.

O fair, O fair Jerusalem,
When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end,
Thy joy that I may see?

The fields were green as green could be,
When from his glorious seat
Our Lord, our God, he watered us,
With his heavenly dew so sweet.

Digitized by Google

And for the saving of our souls
Christ died upon the cross;
We ne'er shall do for Jesus Christ
As he has done for us.

The life of man is but a span,
And cut down in its flower;
We are here to-day and to-morrow are gone,
We are all dead in an hour.

O pray teach your children, man,
The while that you are here;
It will be better for your souls
When your corpse lies on the bier.

To-day you may be alive, dear man,
Worth many a thousand pound;
To-morrow may be dead, dear man,
And your body be laid under ground.

With one turf at your head, O man,
And another at your feet,
Thy good deeds and thy bad, O man,
Will all together meet.

Digitized by Google

My song is done, I must be gone,
I can stay no longer here.
God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a happy new year!

Digitized by Google

A Virgin most Pure.

A VIRGIN most pure, as the Prophets do tell,
Hath brought forth a Babe, as it hath befell,
To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin,
Which by Adam's transgression hath wrapt us all in.
Rejoice, and be you merry, set sorrow aside,
Christ Jesus our Saviour was born on this tide.

In Bethlehem city, in Jewry it was,
Where Joseph and Mary together did pass,
And there to be taxed, with many one mo,[1]
For Cæsar commanded the same should be so.
Rejoice, and be you merry, &c.

But when they had entered the city so fair,
The number of people so mighty was there,
That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,
Could get in the city no lodging at all.
Rejoice, &c.

[1] More.

Digitized by Google

Then they were constrained in a stable to lie,
Where oxen and asses they used to tie;
Their lodging so simple, they held it no scorn,
But against the next morning our Saviour was born.

Rejoice, &c.

The King of all glory to the world being brought,
Small store of fine linen to wrap him was brought;
When Mary had swaddled her young Son so sweet,
Within an ox manger she laid him to sleep.

Rejoice, &c.

Then God sent an angel from heaven so high,
To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie,
And bid them no longer in sorrow to stay,
Because that our Saviour was born on this day.

Rejoice, &c.

Then presently after, the shepherds did spy
A number of angels appear in the sky,
Who joyfully talked, and sweetly did sing,
To God be all glory, our Heavenly King.

Rejoice, &c.

Digitized by Google

Three certain wise princes, they thought it most meet
To lay their rich offerings at our Saviour's feet;
Then the shepherds consented, and to Bethlehem did go,
And when they came thither, they found it was so.
Rejoice, &c.

Digitized by Google

The Saviour of all People.

GOD bless the master of this house,
And all that are therein,
And to begin this Christmas tide
With mirth now let us sing.
For the Saviour of all people
Upon this time was born,
Who did from death deliver us,
When we were left forlorn.

Then let us all most merry be,
And sing with cheerful voice,
For we have good occasion now
This time for to rejoice.
For, &c.

Then put away contention all,
And fall no more at strife,
Let every man with cheerfulness
Embrace his loving wife.
For, &c.

Digitized by Google

With plenteous food your houses store,
Provide some wholesome cheer,
And call your friends together
That live both far and near.
For, &c.

Then let us all most merry be,
Since that we are come here,
And we do hope before we part
To taste some of your beer.
For, &c.

Your beer, your beer, your Christmas beer,
That seems to be so strong,
And we do wish that Christmas tide
Was twenty times so long.
For, &c.

Then sing with voices cheerfully,
For Christ this time was born,
Who did from death deliver us,
When we were left forlorn.
For, &c.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Herrick.

A Christmas Carol.

SUNG TO THE KING IN THE PRESENCE AT WHITEHALL.

Chor.—WHAT sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! awake the string!
Heart, ear, and eye, and everything
Awake! the while the active finger
Runs divisions with the singer.

From the flourish they come to the song.

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day,
That sees December turn'd to May.

If we may ask the reason, say
The why and wherefore all things here
Seem like the spring-time of the year?

Digitized by Google

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like to a mead new-shorn,
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre public mirth
To heaven and the under-earth.

Chor.—We see him come, and know him ours,
Who with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart.

Chor.—Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

Digitized by Google

Printed in Ritson's Ancient Songs and Ballads, Sandys' Christmas Carols, etc. (from Harl. MS. 5396, temp. Henry VI.)

The Contest of the Ivy and the Holly.

NAY, ivy, nay,
It shall not be, i-wis[1];
Let holly have the mastery
As the manner is.

Holly stand in the hall,
Fair to behold;
Ivy stand without the door
She is full sore a-cold.
Nay, ivy, nay, &c.

Holly and his merry men,
They dancen and they sing;
Ivy and her maidens,
They weepen and they wring.
Nay, ivy, nay, &c.

[1] Assuredly.

Digitized by Google

Ivy hath a kybe,[1]
She caught it with the cold;
So mot[2] they all have ae,[3]
That with ivy hold.
Nay, ivy, nay, &c.

Holly hath berries
As red as any rose,
The foster[4] [and] the hunters
Keep them from the doe[s].
Nay, ivy, nay, &c.

Ivy hath berries
As black as any sloe;
There come the owl
And eat him as she go.
Nay, ivy, nay, &c.

Holly hath birdès,
A full fair flock,
The nightingale, the popinjay,
The gentle laverock.
Nay, ivy, nay, &c.

[1] The MS. has "lybe."—"Kybe" = chapped skin.
[2] May. [3] Each, severally. [4] Forester.

Digitized by Google

Good ivy,
What birdès hast thou?
None but the howlet
That krey [1] "how, how."

Nay, ivy, nay,
It shall not be, i-wis;
Let holly have the mastery
As the manner is.

[1] Cries.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Stephen Hawker.

Modryb Marya—Aunt Mary.

A CHRISTMAS CHANT.

In old and simple-hearted Cornwall, the household names "Uncle" and "Aunt" were uttered and used as they are to this day in many countries of the East, not only as phrases of kindred, but as words of kindly greeting and tender respect. It was in the spirit, therefore, of this touching and graphic usage, that they were wont on the Tamar side to call the Mother of God in their loyal language *Modryb Marya*, or Aunt Mary.

NOW of all the trees by the king's highway,
Which do you love the best?
O! the one that is green upon Christmas Day,
The bush with the bleeding breast.
Now the holly with her drops of blood for me:
For that is our dear Aunt Mary's tree.

Its leaves are sweet with our Saviour's Name,
'Tis a plant that loves the poor:
Summer and winter it shines the same
Beside the cottage door.
O! the holly with her drops of blood for me:
For that is our kind Aunt Mary's tree.

Digitized by Google

'Tis a bush that the birds will never leave:
They sing in it all day long;
But sweetest of all upon Christmas Eve
Is to hear the robin's song.
'Tis the merriest sound upon earth and sea:
For it comes from our own Aunt Mary's tree.

So, of all that grow by the king's highway,
I love that tree the best;
'Tis a bower for the birds upon Christmas Day,
The bush of the bleeding breast.
O! the holly with her drops of blood for me:
For that is our sweet Aunt Mary's tree.

1838.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Stephen Hawker.

The Child Jesus.

A CORNISH CAROL.

WELCOME that star in Judah's sky,
That voice o'er Bethlehem's palmy glen:
The lamp far sages hailed on high,
The tones that thrilled the shepherd men:
Glory to God in loftiest heaven!
Thus angels smote the echoing chord;
Glad tidings unto man forgiven,
Peace from the presence of the Lord.

The Shepherds sought that birth divine,
The Wise Men traced their guided way;
There, by strange light and mystic sign,
The God they came to worship lay.
A human Babe in beauty smiled,
Where lowing oxen round him trod:
A maiden clasped her Awful Child,
Pure offspring of the breath of God.

Digitized by Google

Those voices from on high are mute,
The star the Wise Men saw is dim;
But hope still guides the wanderer's foot,
And faith renews the angel hymn:
Glory to God in loftiest heaven!
Touch with glad hand the ancient chord;
Good tidings unto man forgiven,
Peace from the presence of the Lord.

1840.

Digitized by Google

By S. T. Coleridge.

The Shepherds went their hasty Way.

THE shepherds went their hasty way,
And found the lowly stable-shed
Where the Virgin-Mother lay;
And now they checked their eager tread,
For to the Babe that at her bosom clung,
A mother's song the Virgin-Mother sung.

They told her how a glorious light,
Streaming from a heavenly throng,
Around them shone, suspending night!
While sweeter than a mother's song,
Blest angels heralded the Saviour's birth,
Glory to God on high! and peace on earth!

She listened to the tale divine,
And closer still the Babe she prest;
And while she cried, the Babe is mine!
The milk rushed faster to her breast:

Digitized by Google

Joy rose within her like a summer's morn;
Peace, peace on earth! the Prince of peace is
born.

Thou Mother of the Prince of peace,
Poor, simple, and of low estate!
That strife should vanish, battle cease,
O why should this thy soul elate?
Sweet music's loudest note, the poet's story,—
Didst thou ne'er love to hear of fame and glory?

And is not War a youthful king,
A stately hero clad in mail?
Beneath his footsteps laurels spring;
Him earth's majestic monarchs hail
Their friend, their playmate! and his bold bright eye
Compels the maiden's love-confessing sigh.

"Tell this in some more courtly scene,
To maids and youths in robes of state!
I am a woman poor and mean,
And therefore is my soul elate:
War is a ruffian all with guilt defiled,
That from the aged father tears his child.

Digitized by Google

"A murderous fiend by fiends adored,
He kills the sire and starves the son;
The husband kills and from her board
Steals all his widow's toil had won;
Plunders God's world of beauty; rends away
All safety from the night, all comfort from the day.

"Then wisely is my soul elate,
That strife should vanish, battle cease;
I'm poor and of a low estate,
The Mother of the Prince of peace.
Joy rises in me, like a summer's morn:
Peace, peace on earth! the Prince of peace is born!"

Digitized by Google

By Miss Christina G. Rossetti.

A Christmas Carol.

IN the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Digitized by Google

Enough for him whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only his mother,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,—
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

Digitized by Google

By Mr. William Morris (from Sedding's Antient Christmas Carols, 1860).

Masters, in this Hall.

"TO Bethlem did they go, the shepherds three;
To Bethlem did they go to see whe'r it were so or no,
Whether Christ were born or no
To set men free."

Masters, in this hall,
Hear ye news to-day
Brought over sea,
And ever I you pray.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Sing we clear!
Holpen are all folk on earth,
Born is God's Son so dear.

Going over the hills,
Through the milk-white snow,
Heard I ewes bleat
While the wind did blow.
Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

Shepherds many an one
Sat among the sheep;
No man spake more word
Than they had been asleep.
Nowell, etc.

Quoth I "Fellows mine,
Why this guise sit ye?
Making but dull cheer,
Shepherds though ye be?
Nowell, etc.

"Shepherds should of right
Leap and dance and sing;
Thus to see ye sit
Is a right strange thing."
Nowell, etc.

Quoth these fellows then,
"To Bethlem town we go,
To see a Mighty Lord
Lie in manger low."
Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

"How name ye this Lord,
Shepherds?" then said I.
"Very God," they said,
"Come from Heaven high."
Nowell, etc.

Then to Bethlem town
We went two and two,
And in a sorry place
Heard the oxen low.
Nowell, etc.

Therein did we see
A sweet and goodly May,
And a fair old man;
Upon the straw she lay.
Nowell, etc.

And a little CHILD
On her arm had she;
"Wot ye who this is?"
Said the hinds to me.
Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

Ox and ass him know,
  Kneeling on their knee:
Wondrous joy had I
  This little BABE to see.
Nowell, etc.

This is CHRIST the Lord,
  Masters, be ye glad!
Christmas is come in,
  And no folk should be sad.
Nowell, etc.

Digitized by Google

From Mr. William Morris's Land East of the Sun and West of the Moon (Earthly Paradise, vol. iii.)

Outlanders, whence come ye last?

OUTLANDERS, whence come ye last?
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
Through what green sea and great have ye past?
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

From far away, O masters mine,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
We come to bear you goodly wine:
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

From far away we come to you,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
To tell of great tidings strange and true:
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

Digitized by Google

News, news of the Trinity,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
And Mary and Joseph from over the sea:
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

For as we wandered far and wide,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
What hap do ye deem there should us betide?
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

Under a bent when the night was deep,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
There lay three shepherds tending their sheep:
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

"O ye shepherds, what have ye seen,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
To slay your sorrow and heal your teen?"
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

"In an ox-stall this night we saw,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
A Babe and a maid without a flaw.
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

Digitized by Google

"There was an old man there beside,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
His hair was white, and his hood was wide.
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

"And as we gazed this thing upon,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
Those twain knelt down to the Little One.
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

"And a marvellous song we straight did hear,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
That slew our sorrow and healed our care."
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

News of a fair and a marvellous thing,
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, we sing!
Minstrels and maids, stand forth on the floor.

Digitized by Google

From Mr. A. C. Swinburne's Poems and Ballads (first series).

Three Damsels in the Queen's Chamber.[1]

THREE damsels in the queen's chamber,
The queen's mouth was most fair;
She spake a word of God's mother
As the combs went in her hair.
Mary that is of might,
Bring us to thy Son's sight.

They held the gold combs out from her
A span's length off her head;
She sang this song of God's mother
And of her bearing-bed.
Mary most full of grace,
Bring us to thy Son's face.

When she sat at Joseph's hand,
She looked against her side;

[1] Suggested by a drawing of Mr. D. G. Rossetti's.

Digitized by Google

And either way from the short silk band
Her girdle was all wried.
Mary that all good may,
Bring us to thy Son's way.

Mary had three women for her bed,
The twain were maidens clean;
The first of them had white and red,
The third had riven green.
Mary that is so sweet,
Bring us to thy Son's feet.

She had three women for her hair,
Two were gloved soft and shod;
The third had feet and fingers bare,
She was the likest God.
Mary that wieldeth land,
Bring us to thy Son's hand.

She had three women for her ease,
The twain were good women;
The first two were the two Maries,
The third was Magdalen.
Mary that perfect is,
Bring us to thy Son's kiss.

Digitized by Google

Joseph had three workmen in his stall,
To serve him well upon;
The first of them were Peter and Paul,
The third of them was John.
Mary, God's handmaiden,
Bring us to thy Son's ken.

"If your child be none other man's,
But if it be very mine,
The bedstead shall be gold two spans,
The bed-foot silver fine."
Mary that made God mirth,
Bring us to thy Son's birth.

"If the child be some other man's,
And if it be none of mine,
The manger shall be straw two spans,
Betwixen kine and kine."
Mary that made sin cease,
Bring us to thy Son's peace.

Christ was born upon this wise,
It fell on such a night,
Neither with sounds of psalteries,
Nor with fire for light.
Mary that is God's spouse,
Bring us to thy Son's house.

Digitized by Google

The star came out upon the east
With a great sound and sweet:
Kings gave gold to make him feast
And myrrh for him to eat.
Mary, of thy sweet mood,
Bring us to thy Son's good.

He had two handmaids at his head,
One handmaid at his feet;
The twain of them were fair and red,
The third one was right sweet.
Mary that is most wise,
Bring us to thy Son's eyes. Amen.

Digitized by Google

PART II.

CARMINA SACRA.

By John Milton.

On the Morning of Christ's Nativity.

THIS is the month, and this the happy morn,
Wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King,
Of wedded maid and virgin-mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

That glorious form, that light insufferable,
And that far-beaming blaze of majesty,
Wherewith he wont at heaven's high council-table
To sit the midst of Trinal Unity,
He laid aside; and, here with us to be,
Forsook the courts of everlasting day,
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

Digitized by Google

Say, heavenly Muse, shall not thy sacred vein
Afford a present to the Infant-God?
Hast thou no verse, no hymn, or solemn strain,
To welcome him to this his new abode,
Now while the heaven, by the sun's team untrod,
Hath took no print of the approaching light,
And all the spangled host kept watch in squadron bright?

See, how from far, upon the eastern road,
The star-led wizards haste with odours sweet;
O run, prevent them with thy humble ode,
And lay it lowly at his blessed feet;
Have thou the honour first thy Lord to greet,
And join thy voice unto the angel-quire,
From out his secret altar touch'd with hallow'd fire.

The Hymn.

It was the winter wild,
While the heaven-born Child
All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies;
Nature in awe to him,
Had doff'd her gaudy trim,
With her great Master so to sympathise:
It was no season then for her
To wanton with the sun, her lusty paramour.

Digitized by Google

Only with speeches fair
She woos the gentle air
  To hide her guilty front with innocent snow;
And on her naked shame,
Pollute with sinful blame,
  The saintly veil of maiden-white to throw;
Confounded, that her Maker's eyes
Should look so near upon her foul deformities.

But he, her fears to cease,
Sent down the meek-eyed Peace;
  She, crown'd with olive green, came softly sliding
Down through the turning sphere,
His ready Harbinger,
  With turtle wing the amorous clouds dividing;
And, waving wide her myrtle wand,
She strikes an universal peace through sea and land.

No war, or battle's sound,
Was heard the world around:
  The idle spear and shield were high up-hung;
The hooked chariot stood
Unstain'd with hostile blood;
  The trumpet spake not to the armed throng;
And kings sat still with awful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovran Lord was by.

Digitized by Google

But peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of Light
His reign of peace upon the earth began:
The winds with wonder whist,[1]
Smoothly the waters kist,
Whispering new joys to the mild ocean,
Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed wave.

The stars, with deep amaze,
Stand fix'd in steadfast gaze,
Bending one way their precious influence;
And will not take their flight,
For all the morning light,
Or Lucifer that often warn'd them thence;
But in their glimmering orbs did glow,
Until their Lord himself bespake, and bid them go.

And, though the shady gloom
Had given day her room,
The sun himself withheld his wonted speed,
And hid his head for shame,
As his inferior flame
The new-enlighten'd world no more should need.
He saw a greater Sun appear
Than his bright throne, or burning axletree, could bear.

[1] Hushed.

Digitized by Google

The shepherds on the lawn,
Or ere the point of dawn,
  Sat simply chatting in a rustic row;
Full little thought they than [1]
That the mighty Pan
  Was kindly come to live with them below;
Perhaps their loves, or else their sheep,
Was all that did their silly thoughts so busy keep.

When such music sweet
Their hearts and ears did greet,
  As never was by mortal finger strook;
Divinely-warbled voice
Answering the stringed noise,
  As all their souls in blissful rapture took:
The air such pleasure loth to lose,
With thousand echoes still prolongs each heavenly close.

Nature, that heard such sound,
Beneath the hollow round
  Of Cynthia's seat, the airy region thrilling,
Now was almost won
To think her part was done,
  And that her reign had here its last fulfilling;

[1] Old form of *then*.

Digitized by Google

She knew such harmony alone
Could hold all heaven and earth in happier union.

At last surrounds their sight
A globe of circular light,
That with long beams the shamefaced night array'd;
The helmed cherubim,
And sworded seraphim,
Are seen in glittering ranks with wings display'd,
Harping in loud and solemn quire,
With unexpressive notes, to Heaven's new-born Heir.

Such music (as 'tis said)
Before was never made,
But when of old the sons of morning sung,
While the Creator great
His constellations set,
And the well-balanced world on hinges hung;
And cast the dark foundations deep,
And bid the weltering waves their oozy channel keep.

Ring out, ye crystal spheres,
Once bless our human ears,
If ye have power to touch our senses so;

Digitized by Google

And let your silver chime
Move in melodious time;
  And let the base of Heaven's deep organ blow;
And, with your ninefold harmony,
Make up full consort to the angelic symphony.

For, if such holy song,
Enwrap our fancy long,
  Time will run back and fetch the age of gold;
And speckled Vanity
Will sicken soon and die,
  And leprous Sin will melt from earthly mould;
And Hell itself will pass away,
And leave her dolorous mansions to the peering
    day.

Yea, Truth and Justice then
Will down return to men.
  Orb'd in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing,
Mercy will sit between,
Throned in celestial sheen,
  With radiant feet the tissued clouds down steering;
And Heaven, as at some festival,
Will open wide the gates of her high palace-hall.

Digitized by Google

But wisest Fate says No,
This must not yet be so,
The Babe yet lies in smiling infancy,
That on the bitter cross
Must redeem our loss;
So both himself and us to glorify:
Yet first, to those ychain'd in sleep,
The wakeful trump of doom must thunder through the deep;

With such a horrid clang
As on Mount Sinai rang,
While the red fire and smouldering clouds outbrake:
The aged earth aghast
With terror of that blast,
Shall from the surface to the centre shake;
When at the world's last session,
The dreadful Judge in middle air shall spread his throne.

And then at last our bliss
Full and perfect is,
But now begins; for, from this happy day,
The Old Dragon, under ground
In straiter limits bound,
Not half so far casts his usurped sway;

Digitized by Google

And, wroth to see his kingdom fail,
Swinges the scaly horror of his folded tail.

The oracles are dumb,
No voice or hideous hum
  Runs through the arched roof in words deceiving.
Apollo from his shrine
Can no more divine,
  With hollow shriek the steep of Delphos leaving.
No nightly trance, or breathed spell,
Inspires the pale-eyed priest from the prophetic cell.

The lonely mountains o'er,
And the resounding shore,
  A voice of weeping heard and loud lament;
From haunted spring and dale,
Edged with poplar pale,
  The parting Genius is with sighing sent;
With flower-inwoven tresses torn,
The Nymphs in twilight shade of tangled thickets
    mourn.

In consecrated earth,
And on the holy hearth
  The Lars, and Lemures, moan with midnight plaint;

Digitized by Google

In urns, and altars round,
A drear and dying sound
  Affrights the Flamens at their service quaint;
And the chill marble seems to sweat,
While each peculiar power foregoes his wonted seat.

Peor and Baälim
Forsake their temples dim
  With that twice-batter'd god of Palestine;
And mooned Ashtaroth,
Heaven's queen and mother both,
  Now sits not girt with tapers' holy shrine;
The Libyc Hammon shrinks his horn,
In vain the Tyrian maids their wounded Thammuz
    mourn.

And sullen Moloch, fled,
Hath left in shadows dread
  His burning idol all of blackest hue;
In vain with cymbals' ring
They call the grisly king,
  In dismal dance about the furnace blue;
The brutish gods of Nile as fast,
Isis, and Orus, and the dog Anubis, haste.

Digitized by Google

Nor is Osiris seen
In Memphian grove or green,
  Trampling the unshower'd grass with lowings loud:
Nor can he be at rest
Within his sacred chest;
  Nought but profoundest hell can be his shroud;
In vain with timbrell'd anthems dark
The sable-stoled sorcerers bear his worshipt ark.

He feels from Judah's land
The dreaded Infant's hand,
  The rays of Bethlehem blind his dusky eyn;
Nor all the gods beside
Longer dare abide,
  Nor Typhon huge ending in snaky twine:
Our Babe, to show his Godhead true,
Can in his swaddling bands control the damned crew.

So, when the sun in bed,
Curtain'd with cloudy red,
  Pillows his chin upon an orient wave,
The flocking shadows pale
Troop to the infernal jail,
  Each fetter'd ghost slips to his several grave;

Digitized by Google

And the yellow-skirted fays
Fly after the night-steeds, leaving their moon-loved maze.

But see, the Virgin blest
Hath laid her Babe to rest;
Time is our tedious song should here have ending:
Heaven's youngest-teemed star
Hath fix'd her polish'd car,
Her sleeping Lord, with handmaid-lamp attending:
And all about the courtly stable
Bright-harness'd[1] angels sit in order serviceable.

[1] In bright armour.

Digitized by Google

By Giles Fletcher.

Who can forget—never to be forgot.

WHO can forget—never to be forgot—
The time, that all the world in slumber lies,
When, like the stars, the singing angels shot
To earth, and heaven awaked all his eyes,
To see another sun at midnight rise
On earth? Was never sight of pareil[1] fame
For God before, man like himself did frame,
But God himself now like a mortal man became.

A Child he was, and had not learnt to speak,
That with his word the world before did make;
His mother's arms him bore, he was so weak,
That with one hand the vaults of heaven could shake;
See how small room my infant Lord doth take
Whom all the world is not enough to hold!
Who of his years, or of his age hath told?
Never such age so young, never a child so old.

[1] Equal.

Digitized by Google

And yet but newly he was infanted,
And yet already he was sought to die;
Yet scarcely born, already banished;
Not able yet to go, and forced to fly:
But scarcely fled away, when by and by,
The tyran's[1] sword with blood is all defiled,
And Rachel, for her sons, with fury wild,
Cries, "O thou cruel king, and O my sweetest Child!"

Egypt his nurse became, where Nilus springs,
Who, straight to entertain the rising sun,
The hasty harvest in his bosom brings;
But now for drought the fields were all undone,
And now with waters all is overrun:
So fast the Cynthian mountains pour'd their snow,
When once they felt the sun so near them glow,
That Nilus Egypt lost, and to a sea did grow.

The angels carolled loud their song of peace;
The cursed oracles were strucken dumb;
To see their Shepherd, the poor shepherds press;

[1] *Tyran* is the old form of *Tyrant.*

Digitized by Google

To see their King, the kingly sophies[1] come;
And them to guide unto his Master's home,
A star comes dancing up the Orient,
That springs for joy over the strawy tent,
Where gold, to make their prince a crown, they all present.

[1] Wise men.

Digitized by Google

From Henry Vaughan's Silex Scintillans.

The Shepherds.

SWEET, harmless livers! on whose holy leisure
Waits innocence and pleasure;
Whose leaders to those pastures and clear springs
Were patriarchs, saints and kings;
How happened it that in the dead of night
You only saw true light,
While Palestine was fast asleep and lay
Without one thought of day?
Was it because those first and blessèd swains
Were pilgrims on those plains
When they received the promise, for which now
'Twas there first shown to you?
'Tis true he loves that dust whereon they go
That serve him here below,
And therefore might for memory of those
His love there first disclose;
But wretched Salem, once his love, must now
No voice nor vision know;

Digitized by Google

Her stately piles with all their height and pride
Now languishèd and died,
And Bethlem's humble cots above them stept
While all her seers slept;
Her cedar fir, hewed stones, and gold were all
Polluted through their fall;
And those once sacred mansions were now
Mere emptiness and show.
This made the angel call at reeds and thatch,
Yet where the shepherds watch,
And God's own lodging, though he could not lack,
To be a common rack.
No costly pride, no soft-clothed luxury
In those thin cells could lie;
Each stirring wind and storm blew through their cots,
Which never harboured plots;
Only content and love and humble joys
Lived there without all noise;
Perhaps some harmless cares for the next day
Did in their bosoms play,
As where to lead their sheep, what silent nook,
What springs or shades to look;
But that was all; and now with gladsome care
They for the town prepare;
They leave their flock, and in a busy talk
All towards Bethlem walk,

Digitized by Google

To seek their soul's great Shepherd who was come
To bring all stragglers home;
Where now they find him out, and, taught before,
That Lamb of God adore,
That Lamb, whose days great kings and prophets wished
And longed to see, but missed.
The first light they beheld was bright and gay,
And turned their night to day;
But to this later light they saw in him
Their day was dark and dim.

Digitized by Google

From Henry Vaughan's Silex Scintillans.

Christ's Nativity.

AWAKE, glad heart! get up and sing!
It is the Birthday of thy King.
Awake! awake!
The sun doth shake
Light from his locks, and, all the way
Breathing perfumes, doth spice the day.

2.

Awake! awake! hark how th' wood rings,
Winds whisper, and the busy springs
A concert make!
Awake! awake!
Man is their high-priest, and should rise
To offer up the sacrifice.

Digitized by Google

3.

I would I were some bird, or star,
Fluttering in woods, or lifted far
Above this inn,
And road of sin!
Then either star or bird should be
Shining or singing still to thee.

4.

I would I had in my best part
Fit rooms for thee! or that my heart
Were so clean as
Thy manger was!
But I am all filth, and obscene;
Yet, if thou wilt, thou canst make clean.

5.

Sweet Jesu! will then. Let no more
This leper haunt and soil thy door!
Cure him, ease him,
O release him!
And let once more, by mystic birth,
The Lord of life be born in earth.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Southwell.

New Prince, New Pomp.

BEHOLD a silly tender Babe,
In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies;
Alas! a piteous sight.

The inns are full, no man will yield
This little pilgrim bed;
But forced he is with silly beasts
In crib to shroud his head.

Despise him not for lying there,
First what he is inquire;
An orient pearl is often found
In depth of dirty mire.

Weigh not his crib, his wooden dish,
Nor beast that by him feed;
Weigh not his mother's poor attire,
Nor Joseph's simple weed.[1]

[1] Dress.

Digitized by Google

This stable is a prince's court,
  This crib his chair of state;
The beasts are parcel of his pomp,
  The wooden dish his plate.

The persons in that poor attire
  His royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself is come from heaven,
  This pomp is praisèd there.

With joy approach, O Christian wight!
  Do homage to thy King;
And highly praise this humble pomp
  Which he from heaven doth bring.

Digitized by Google

From George Herbert's Temple.

Christmas.

ALL after pleasures as I rid one day,
My horse and I both tired, body and mind,
With full cry of affections quite astray,
I took up in the next inn I could find.

There, when I came, whom found I but my dear—
My dearest Lord; expecting till the grief
Of pleasures brought me to him; ready there
To be all passengers' most sweet relief?

O thou, whose glorious, yet contracted, light,
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger;
Since my dark soul and brutish is thy right,
To man, of all beasts be not thou a stranger;

Furnish and deck my soul, that thou may'st have
A better lodging than a rack or grave.

Digitized by Google

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for thee?
My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds
Of thoughts and words and deeds.
The pasture is thy word, the streams thy grace,
Enriching every place.

Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers
Outsing the daylight hours.
Then we will chide the sun for letting night
Take up his place and right:
We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should
Himself the candle hold.

I will go searching till I find a sun
Shall stay till we have done;
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly
As frost-nipt suns look sadly.
Then we will sing and shine all our own day,
And one another pay.

His beams shall cheer my breast; and both so twine,
Till ev'n his beams sing and my music shine.

Digitized by Google

By Bishop Hall.

For Christmas Day.

IMMORTAL Babe, who this dear day
Didst change thine heaven for our clay,
And didst with flesh thy godhead veil,
Eternal Son of God, all hail!

Shine, happy star; ye angels, sing
Glory on high to heaven's King:
Run, shepherds, leave your nightly watch,
See heaven come down to Bethlehem's cratch.

Worship, ye sages of the east,
The King of gods in meanness dressed.
O blessed maid, smile and adore
The God thy womb and arms have bore.

Star, angels, shepherds, and wise sages,
Thou virgin glory of all ages,
Restored frame of heaven and earth,
Joy in your dear Redeemer's birth!

Digitized by Google

By Edmund Bolton. From England's Helicon, 1600.

The Shepherd's Song.

A CAROL OR HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS.

SWEET music, sweeter far
Than any song is sweet:
Sweet music, heavenly rare,
Mine ears, O peers, doth greet.
You gentle flocks, whose fleeces, pearled with dew,
Resemble heaven, whom golden drops make bright,
Listen, O listen, now, O not to you
Our pipes make sport to shorten weary night:
But voices most divine
Make blissful harmony:
Voices that seem to shine,
For what else clears the sky?
Tunes can we hear, but not the singers see,
The tunes divine, and so the singers be.

Lo, how the firmament
Within an azure fold
The flock of stars hath pent,
That we might them behold

Digitized by Google

Yet from their beams proceedeth not this light,
Nor can their christals such reflection give.
What then doth make the element so bright?
The heavens are come down upon earth to live.
But hearken to the song,
Glory to glory's king,
And peace all men among,
These quiristers do sing.
Angels they are, as also (Shepherds) he
Whom in our fear we do admire to see.

Let not amazement blind
Your souls, said he, annoy:
To you and all mankind
My message bringeth joy.
For lo, the world's great Shepherd now is born,
A blessed babe, an infant full of power:
After long night uprisen is the morn,
Renowning Bethl'em in the Saviour.
Sprung is the perfect day,
By prophets seen afar:
Sprung is the mirthful May,
Which winter cannot mar.
In David's city doth this sun appear
Clouded in flesh, yet, shepherds, sit we here?

Digitized by Google

By Ben Jonson.

A Hymn on the Nativity of my Saviour.

I SING the birth was born to-night,
The author both of life and light;
The angels so did sound it.
And like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid,
Yet searched, and true they found it.

The Son of God, th' eternal king,
That did us all salvation bring,
And freed the soul from danger;
He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,
Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom willed it so,
The Son's obedience knew no No,
Both wills were in one stature;
And as that wisdom had decreed,
The Word was now made flesh indeed,
And took on him our nature.

Digitized by Google

What comfort by him do we win,
Who made himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory!
To see this babe all innocence;
A martyr born in our defence:
Can man forget the story?

Digitized by Google

From Richard Crashaw's Steps to the Temple. The text of ed. 1648 is followed.

A Hymn of the Nativity.

SUNG AS BY THE SHEPHERDS.

Chorus. COME we shepherds whose blest sight
Hath met Love's noon in Nature's night;
Come, lift we up our loftier song,
And wake the sun that lies too long.

To all our world of well-stol'n joy,
He slept and dreamt of no such thing,
While we found out heaven's fairer eye
And kist the cradle of our King;
Tell him he rises now too late
To show us ought worth looking at.

Tell him we now can show him more
Than e'er he showed to mortal sight,
Than he himself e'er saw before,
Which to be seen needs not his light.
Tell him, Tityrus, where th' hast been,
Tell him, Thyrsis, what th' hast seen.

Digitized by Google

Tit. Gloomy night embraced the place
Where the noble Infant lay,
The Babe looked up and showed his face;
In spite of darkness it was day.
It was thy day, Sweet, and did rise
Not from the East but from thine eyes.
Chorus. It was thy day, Sweet, &c.

Thyrs. Winter chid aloud and sent
The angry North to wage his wars;
The North forgot his fierce intent,
And left perfumes instead of scars;
By those sweet eyes' persuasive powers,
Where he meant frost he scattered flowers.
Chorus. By those sweet eyes, &c.

Both. We saw thee in thy balmy nest,
Bright dawn of our eternal day!
We saw thine eyes break from their East
And chase the trembling shades away;
We saw thee, and we blest the sight,
We saw thee by thine own sweet light.

Tit. Poor world (said I), what wilt thou do
To entertain this starry stranger?
Is this the best thou canst bestow,
A cold and not too cleanly manger?

Digitized by Google

Contend, ye powers of heaven and earth,
To fit a bed for this huge birth.
Chorus. Contend, ye powers, &c.

Thyrs. Proud world (said I), cease your contest,
And let the mighty Babe alone,
The Phœnix builds the Phœnix nest,
Love's architecture is all one.
The Babe whose birth embraves this morn
Made his own bed ere he was born.
Chorus. The Babe whose birth, &c.

Tit. I saw the curl'd drops, soft and slow,
Come hovering o'er the place's head,
Offering their whitest sheets of snow
To furnish the fair Infant's bed :
Forbear (said I), be not too bold ;
Your fleece is white, but 'tis too cold.
Chorus. Forbear (said I), &c.

Thyrs. I saw the obsequious seraphins
Their rosy fleece of fire bestow ;
For well they now can spare their wings,
Since heaven itself lies here below :
Well done (said I), but are you sure
Your down so warm will pass for pure.
Chorus. Well done (said I), &c.

Digitized by Google

Tit. No, no, your king's not yet to seek
Where to repose his royal head,
See, see, how soon his new-bloom'd cheek
Twixt 's mother's breasts is gone to bed:
Sweet choice (said I), no way but so,
Not to lie cold, yet sleep in snow.
Chorus. Sweet choice (said I), &c.

Both. We saw thee in thy balmy nest,
Bright dawn of our eternal day!
We saw thine eyes break from their East
And chase the trembling shades away;
We saw thee, and we blest the sight,
We saw thee by thine own sweet light.
Chorus. We saw thee, &c.

Full Chorus. Welcome all wonder in one sight,
Eternity shut in a span,
Summer in winter, day in night,
Heaven in earth and God in man!
Great little One! whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Welcome, though not to gold nor silk,
To more than Cæsar's birthright is,
Two Sister Seas of Virgin milk
With many a rarely-tempered kiss,

Digitized by Google

That breathes at once both Maid and Mother,
Warms in the one and cools in the other.

She sings thy tears asleep, and dips
Her kisses in thy weeping eye;
She spreads the red leaves of thy lips
That in their buds yet blushing lie:
She 'gainst those mother-diamonds tries
The points of her young eagle's eyes.

Welcome, though not to those gay flies
Gilded i' the beams of earthly kings,
Slippery souls in smiling eyes,
But to poor shepherds' home-spun things;
Whose wealth's their flock, whose wit to be
Well read in their simplicity.

Yet when young April's husband-showers
Shall bless the fruitful Maia's bed,
We'll bring the first-born of her flowers
To kiss thy feet and crown thy head:
To thee, dread Lamb, whose love must keep
The shepherds more than they their sheep.

Digitized by Google

To thee, meek Majesty! soft King
Of simple graces and sweet loves,
Each of us his lamb will bring,
Each his pair of silver doves,
Till burnt at last in fire of thy fair eyes
Ourselves become our own best sacrifice.

Digitized by Google

From Richard Crashaw's Steps to the Temple. Only the opening lines are here given.

A Hymn for the Epiphany.

SUNG AS BY THE THREE KINGS.

1 *King.* BRIGHT Babe! whose awful beauties make
The morn incur a sweet mistake;
2 *King.* For whom the officious heavens devise
To disinherit the sun's rise;
3 *King.* Delicately to displace
The day, and plant it fairer in thy face;
1 *King.* O thou born King of loves!
2 *King.* Of lights!
3 *King.* Of joys!
Chorus. Look up, sweet Babe, look up and see!
For love of thee,
Thus far from home
The East is come
To seek herself in thy sweet eyes.

1 *King.* We who strangely went astray,
Lost in a bright
Meridian night;

Digitized by Google

2 *King.* A darkness made of too much day;
3 *King.* Beckoned from far
By thy fair star,
Lo, at last have found our way.
Chorus. To thee, thou Day of Night! thou East of West!
Lo, we at last have found the way
To thee, the world's great universal East,
The general and indifferent day.

1 *King.* All-circling point! all-centring sphere!
The world's one round eternal year:
2 *King.* Whose full and all-unwrinkled face
Nor sinks nor swells with time or place;
3 *King.* But every where and every while
Is one consistent solid smile.
1 *King.* Not vexed and tost,
2 *King.* 'Twixt spring and frost;
3 *King.* Nor by alternate shreds of light,
Sordidly shifting hands with shades and night.
Chorus. O little All, in Thy embrace,
The world lies warm and likes his place;
Nor does his full globe fail to be
Kissed on both his cheeks by Thee;
Time is too narrow for Thy year,
Nor makes the whole world Thy half-sphere.

Digitized by Google

By William Drummond of Hawthornden.

The Angels.

RUN, shepherds, run where Bethlehem blest appears.
We bring the best of news; be not dismayed;
A Saviour there is born more old than years,
Amidst heaven's rolling height this earth who stayed.
In a poor cottage inned, a virgin maid
A weakling did him bear, who all upbears;
There is he poorly swaddled, in manger laid,
To whom too narrow swaddlings are our spheres:
Run, shepherds, run and solemnise his birth.
This is that night—no, day, grown great with bliss,
In which the power of Satan broken is:
In Heaven be glory, peace unto the earth!
Thus singing, through the air the angels swam,
And cope of stars re-echoèd the same.

Digitized by Google

By William Drummond of Hawthornden.

The Shepherds.

O THAN the fairest day, thrice fairer night!
Night to blest days in which a sun doth rise
Of which that golden eye which clears the skies
Is but a sparkling ray, a shadow-light!
And blessed ye, in silly pastors' sight,
Mild creatures, in whose warm crib now lies
That heaven-sent youngling, holy-maid-born wight,
Midst, end, beginning of our prophecies!
Blest cottage that hath flowers in winter spread,
Though withered—blessed grass that hath the grace
To deck and be a carpet to that place!
Thus sang, unto the sounds of oaten reed,
Before the Babe, the shepherds bowed on knees;
And springs ran nectar, honey dropped from trees.

Digitized by Google

By Sir John Beaumont.

Of the Epiphany.

FAIR eastern star, that art ordained to run
Before the sages, to the rising sun,
Here cease thy course, and wonder that the cloud
Of this poor stable can thy Maker shroud:
Ye heavenly bodies glory to be bright,
And are esteemed as ye are rich in light;
But here on earth is taught a different way,
Since under this low roof the Highest lay.
Jerusalem erects her stately towers,
Displays her windows and adorns her bowers;
Yet there thou must not cast a trembling spark,
Let Herod's palace still continue dark;
Each school and synagogue thy force repels,
There Pride enthroned in misty error dwells;
The temple, where the priests maintain their quire,
Shall taste no beam of thy celestial fire,
While this weak cottage all thy splendour takes:
A joyful gate of every chink it makes.

Digitized by Google

Here shines no golden roof, no ivory stair,
No king exalted in a stately chair,
Girt with attendants, or by heralds styled,
But straw and hay enwrap a speechless child.
Yet Sabae's lords before this babe unfold
Their treasures, offering incense, myrrh and gold.
The crib becomes an altar: therefore dies
No ox nor sheep; for in their fodder lies
The Prince of Peace, who, thankful for his bed,
Destroys those rites in which their blood was shed:
The quintessence of earth he takes, and fees,
And precious gums distilled from weeping trees;
Rich metals and sweet odours now declare
The glorious blessings which his laws prepare,
To clear us from the base and loathsome flood
Of sense and make us fit for angels' food,
Who lift to God for us the holy smoke
Of fervent prayers with which we him invoke,
And try our actions in the searching fire
By which the seraphims our lips inspire:
No muddy dross pure minerals shall infect,
We shall exhale our vapours up direct:
No storm shall cross, nor glittering lights deface
Perpetual sighs which seek a happy place.

Digitized by Google

From Jeremy Taylor's Festival Hymns.

Hymn for Christmas-Day.

BEING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THREE SHEPHERDS.

1. WHERE is this blessed Babe
That hath made
All the world so full of joy
And expectation;
That glorious boy
That crowns each nation
With a triumphant wreath of blessedness?

2. Where should he be but in the throng,
And among
His angel ministers, that sing
And take wing
Just as may echo to his voice,
And rejoice,
When wing and tongue and all
May so procure their happiness?

Digitized by Google

3. But he hath other waiters now :
A poor cow,
An ox and mule, stand and behold,
And wonder
That a stable should enfold
Him that can thunder.

Chorus. O what a gracious God have we,
How good ! how great ! even as our misery.

Digitized by Google

From Jeremy Taylor's Festival Hymns.

A Hymn for Christmas Day.

AWAKE, my soul, and come away:
Put on thy best array;
Lest if thou longer stay
Thou lose some minutes of so blest a day.
Go run
And bid good-morrow to the sun;
Welcome his safe return
To Capricorn,
And that great morn
Wherein a God was born,
Whose story none can tell
But he whose every word's a miracle.

To-day Almightiness grew weak;
The Word itself was mute and could not speak.

That Jacob's star which made the sun
To dazzle if he durst look on,
Now mantled o'er in Bethlehem's night,
Borrowed a star to show him light.

Digitized by Google

He that begirt each zone,
To whom both poles are one,
Who grasped the Zodiac in his hand
And made it move or stand,
Is now by nature man,
By stature but a span;
Eternity is now grown short;
A King is born without a court;
The water thirsts; the fountain's dry;
And life, being born, made apt to die.

Chorus. Then let our praises emulate and vie
With his humility!
Since he's exiled from skies
That we might rise,—
From low estate of men
Let's sing him up again!
Each man wind up his heart
To bear a part
In that angelic choir and show
His glory high as he was low.
Let's sing towards men goodwill and charity,
Peace upon earth, glory to God on high!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Digitized by Google

By Sir Edward Sherburne.

And they laid Him in a Manger.

HAPPY crib, that wert alone
To my God, bed, cradle, throne!
Whilst thy glorious vileness I
View with divine fancy's eye,
Sordid filth seems all the cost,
State, and splendour, crowns do boast.

See heaven's sacred majesty
Humbled beneath poverty;
Swaddled up in homely rags
On a bed of straw and flags!
He whose hands the heavens displayed,
And the world's foundations laid,
From the world's almost exiled,
Of all ornaments despoiled.
Perfumes bathe him not, new-born,
Persian mantles not adorn;
Nor do the rich roofs look bright
With the jasper's orient light.

Digitized by Google

Where, O royal Infant, be
Th' ensigns of thy majesty;
Thy Sire's equalizing state;
And thy sceptre that rules fate?
Where's thy angel-guarded throne,
Whence thy laws thou didst make known—
Laws which heaven, earth, hell obeyed?
These, ah! these aside he laid;
Would the emblem be—of pride
By humility outvied?

Digitized by Google

By Robert Herrick.

An Ode on the Birth of our Saviour.

IN numbers, and but these few,
I sing thy birth, O Jesu!
Thou pretty baby, born here
With sup'rabundant scorn here:
Who for thy princely port here,
Hadst for thy place
Of birth, a base
Out-stable for thy court here.

Instead of neat enclosures
Of interwoven osiers,
Instead of fragrant posies
Of daffodills and roses,
Thy cradle, kingly stranger,
As gospel tells,
Was nothing else
But here a homely manger.

Digitized by Google

But we with silks not crewels,
With sundry precious jewels,
And lily work will dress thee;
And, as we dispossess thee
Of clouts, we'll make a chamber,
Sweet babe, for thee
Of ivory,
And plaster'd round with amber.

The Jews they did disdain thee,
But we will entertain thee
With glories to await here
Upon thy princely state here;
And, more for love than pity,
From year to year
We'll make thee here
A free-born of our city.

Digitized by Google

By Francis Kinwelmersh. From the Paradise of Dayntie Deuises, 1576.

For Christmas Day.

REJOICE, rejoice, with heart and voice!
In Christè's birth this day rejoice!
From Virgin's womb this day did spring
The precious seed that only saved man;
This day let man rejoice and sweetly sing,
Since on this day salvation first began.
This day did Christ man's soul from death remove,
With glorious saints to dwell in heaven above.

This day to man came pledge of perfect peace,
This day to man came perfect unity,
This day man's grief began for to surcease,
This day did man receive a remedy
For each offence and every deadly sin
With guilty heart that erst he wandered in.

Digitized by Google

In Christè's flock let love be surely placed,
From Christè's flock let concord hate expel,
Of Christè's flock let love be so embraced
As we in Christ and Christ in us may dwell;
Christ is the author of all unity,
From whence proceedeth all felicity.

O sing unto this glittering glorious king,
O praise his name let every living thing,
Let heart and voice, like bells of silver, ring
The comfort that this day doth bring.
Let lute, let shawm, with sound of sweet delight,
The joy of Christè's birth this day recite.

Digitized by Google

By S. T. Coleridge.

The Virgin's Cradle-Hymn.[1]

DORMI, Jesu! Mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu! blandule!
Si non dormis, Mater plorat
Inter fila cantans orat,
Blande, veni, somnule.

English.

Sleep, sweet babe! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee smiling;
Sleep, my darling, tenderly!
If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,
Singing as her wheel she turneth:
Come, soft slumber, balmily!

[1] Copied from a print of the Virgin in a Roman Catholic village in Germany.

Digitized by Google

By John Addington Symonds.

A Christmas Lullaby.

SLEEP, baby, sleep! The Mother sings:
Heaven's angels kneel and fold their wings:
Sleep, baby, sleep!

With swathes of scented hay thy bed
By Mary's hand at eve was spread.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

At midnight came the shepherds, they
Whom seraphs wakened by the way.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

And three kings from the East afar
Ere dawn came guided by thy star.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

They brought thee gifts of gold and gems,
Pure orient pearls, rich diadems.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

Digitized by Google

But thou who liest slumbering there,
Art King of kings, earth, ocean, air.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

Sleep, baby, sleep! The shepherds sing:
Through heaven, through earth, hosannas ring.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

Digitized by Google

From George Wither's Hallelujah, or Britain's Second Remembrancer.

A Rocking Hymn.

SWEET baby, sleep; what ails my dear?
What ails my darling thus to cry?
Be still, my child, and lend thine ear
To hear me sing thy lullaby.
My pretty lamb, forbear to weep;
Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep.

Thou blessed soul, what canst thou fear?
What thing to thee can mischief do?
Thy God is now thy Father dear;
His holy Spouse thy Mother too.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

. . . . . .

Whilst thus thy lullaby I sing,
For thee great blessings ripening be;

Digitized by Google

Thine eldest brother is a king,
And hath a kingdom bought for thee.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Sweet baby, sleep, and nothing fear,
For whosoever thee offends,
By thy protector threatened are,
And God and angels are thy friends.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

When God with us was dwelling here,
In little babes he took delight:
Such innocents as thou, my dear,
Are ever precious in his sight.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

A little infant once was he,
And Strength-in-Weakness then was laid
Upon his Virgin-Mother's knee,
That power to thee might be conveyed.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Digitized by Google

In this thy frailty and thy need
He friends and helpers doth prepare,
Which thee shall cherish, clothe, and feed,
For of thy weal they tender are.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

The King of kings, when he was born,
Had not so much for outward ease;
By him such dressings were not worn,
Nor such-like swaddling-clothes as these.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Within a manger lodged thy Lord,
Where oxen lay and asses fed;
Warm rooms we do to thee afford,
An easy cradle or a bed.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

The wants that he did then sustain
Have purchased wealth, my babe, for thee,
And by his torments and his pain
Thy rest and ease secured be.
My baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Digitized by Google

Thou hast (yet more), to perfect this,
A promise and an earnest got
Of gaining everlasting bliss,
Though thou, my babe, perceiv'st it not.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Digitized by Google

PART III.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS AND CHRISTMAS CHEER.

From George Wither's Juvenilia.

So, now is come our joyfulst feast.

SO, now is come our joyfulst feast,
Let every man be jolly;
Each room with ivy leaves is drest,
And every post with holly.
Though some churls at our mirth repine,
Round your foreheads garlands twine;
Drown sorrow in a cup of wine,
And let us all be merry.

Now all our neighbours' chimnies smoke,
And Christmas logs are burning;
Their ovens they with baked meats choke,
And all their spits are turning.

Digitized by Google

Without the door let sorrow lie;
And if for cold it hap to die,
We'll bury't in a Christmas pie,
And evermore be merry.

Now every lad is wondrous trim,
And no man minds his labour;
Our lasses have provided them
A bag-pipe and a tabor;
Young men and maids, and girls and boys,
Give life to one another's joys;
And you anon shall by their noise
Perceive that they are merry.

Rank misers now do sparing shun;
Their hall of music soundeth;
And dogs thence with whole shoulders run,
So all things there aboundeth.
The country folks themselves advance
For crowdy-mutton's [1] come out of France;
And Jack shall pipe, and Jill shall dance,
And all the town be merry.

Ned Squash hath fetched his bands from pawn,
And all his best apparel;
Brisk Ned hath bought a ruff of lawn
With droppings of the barrel;

[1] Fiddlers.

Digitized by Google

And those that hardly all the year
Had bread to eat or rags to wear
Will have both clothes and dainty fare,
And all the day be merry.

Now poor men to the justices
With capons make their arrants;
And if they hap to fail of these,
They plague them with their warrants:
But now they feed them with good cheer,
And what they want they take in beer;
For Christmas comes but once a year,
And then they shall be merry.

Good farmers in the country nurse
The poor that else were undone;
Some landlords spend their money worse
On lust and pride at London.
There the roysters they do play,
Drab and dice their lands away,
Which may be ours another day;
And therefore let's be merry.

The client now his suit forbears,
The prisoner's heart is eased;
The debtor drinks away his cares,
And for the time is pleased.

Digitized by Google

Though other purses be more fat,
Why should we pine or grieve at that?
Hang sorrow! care will kill a cat,
And therefore let's be merry.

Hark! how the wags abroad do call
Each other forth to rambling:
Anon you'll see them in the hall
For nuts and apples scrambling.
Hark! how the roofs with laughter sound!
Anon they'll think the house goes round:
For they the cellar's depth have found,
And there they will be merry.

The wenches with their wassail bowls
About the streets are singing;
The boys are come to catch the owls,
The wild mare in is bringing.
Our kitchen-boy hath broke his box,
And to the dealing of the ox
Our honest neighbours come by flocks,
And here they will be merry.

Now kings and queens poor sheep-cotes have
And mate with everybody;
The honest now may play the knave
And wise men play at noddy.

Digitized by Google

Some youths will now a mumming go,
Some others play at Rowland-ho,
And twenty other gameboys mo,
Because they will be merry.

Then wherefore in these merry days,
Should we, I pray, be duller?
No, let us sing some roundelays
To make our mirth the fuller.
And whilst thus inspir'd we sing,
Let all the streets with echoes ring,
Woods and hills and everything
Bear witness we are merry.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Herrick.

Ceremonies for Christmas.

COME, bring with a noise,
My merry, merry boys,
The Christmas log to the firing;
While my good dame, she
Bids ye all be free;
And drink to your heart's desiring

With the last year's brand
Light the new block, and
For good success in his spending,
On your psaltries play,
That sweet luck may
Come while the log is a teending.[1]

Drink now the strong beer,
Cut the white loaf here,
The while the meat is a shredding;
For the rare mince-pie
And the plums stand by
To fill the paste that's a kneading.

[1] Burning.

Digitized by Google

CHRISTMAS EVE; ANOTHER CEREMONY.

COME, guard this night the Christmas-pie,
That the thief, though ne'er so sly,
With his flesh hooks don't come nigh
To catch it,

From him, who all alone sits there,
Having his eyes still in his ear,
And a deal of nightly fear
To watch it.

ANOTHER TO THE MAIDS.

WASH your hands, or else the fire
Will not teend to your desire;
Unwashed hands, ye maidens know,
Dead the fire, though ye blow.

Digitized by Google

ANOTHER.

WASSAIL the trees that they may bear
You many a plum, and many a pear:
For more or less fruits they will bring,
As you do give them wassailing.

Digitized by Google

There is a black letter copy of this song in the Pepysian Collection. The first part is found in Durfey's Pills to Purge Melancholy. I have followed the text given in Rimbault's Little Book of Songs and Ballads.

The Praise of Christmas.

FIRST PART.

ALL hail to the days that merit more praise
Than all the rest of the year,
And welcome the nights that double delights
As well for the poor as the peer!
Good fortune attend each merry man's friend,
That doth but the best that he may;
Forgetting old wrongs, with carols and songs,
To drive the cold winter away.

Let Misery pack, with a whip at his back,
To the deep Tantalian flood;
In Lethe profound let envy be drown'd,
That pines at another man's good;
Let Sorrow's expense be banded from hence,
All payments have greater delay,
We'll spend the long nights in cheerful delights
To drive the cold winter away.

Digitized by Google

'Tis ill for a mind to anger inclined
To think of small injuries now;
If wrath be to seek do not lend her thy cheek,
Nor let her inhabit thy brow.
Cross out of thy books malevolent looks,
Both beauty and youth's decay,
And wholly consort with mirth and with sport
To drive the cold winter away.

The court in all state now opens her gate
And gives a free welcome to most;
The city likewise, tho' somewhat precise,
Doth willingly part with her roast:
But yet by report from city and court
The country will e'er gain the day;
More liquor is spent and with better content
To drive the cold winter away.

Our good gentry there for costs do not spare,
The yeomanry fast not till Lent;
The farmers and such think nothing too much,
If they keep but to pay for their rent.
The poorest of all now do merrily call,
When at a fit place they can stay,
For a song or a tale or a cup of good ale
To drive the cold winter away.

Digitized by Google

Thus none will allow of solitude now
But merrily greets the time,
To make it appear of all the whole year
That this is accounted the prime:
December is seen apparel'd in green,
And January fresh as May
Comes dancing along with a cup and a song
To drive the cold winter away.

THE SECOND PART.

This time of the year is spent in good cheer,
And neighbours together do meet
To sit by the fire, with friendly desire,
Each other in love to greet;
Old grudges forgot are put in the pot,
All sorrows aside they lay;
The old and the young doth carol this song
To drive the cold winter away.

Sisley and Nanny, more jocund than any,
As blithe as the month of June,
Do carol and sing like birds of the spring,
No nightingale sweeter in tune;
To bring in content, when summer is spent,
In pleasant delight and play,

Digitized by Google

With mirth and good cheer to end the whole year,
And drive the cold winter away.

The shepherd, the swain do highly disdain
To waste out their time in care,
And Clim of the Clough hath plenty enough
If he but a penny can spare
To spend at the night, in joy and delight,
Now after his labour all day;
For better than lands is the help of his hands
To drive the cold winter away.

To mask and to mum kind neighbours will come
With wassails of nut-brown ale,
To drink and carouse to all in the house
As merry as bucks in the dale;
Where cake, bread, and cheese is brought for your fees
To make you the longer stay;
At the fire to warm 'twill do you no harm,
To drive the cold winter away.

When Christmas's tide comes in like a bride
With holly and ivy clad,
Twelve days in the year much mirth and good cheer
In every household is had;

Digitized by Google

The country guise is then to devise
Some gambols of Christmas play,
Whereat the young men do best that they can
To drive the cold winter away.

When white-bearded frost hath threatened his worst,
And fallen from branch and briar,
Then time away calls from husbandry halls
And from the good countryman's fire,
Together to go, to plough and to sow,
To get us both food and array,
And thus with content the time we have spent
To drive the cold winter away.

Digitized by Google

From Evans' Old Ballads, ed. 1810, *I.* 146-150.

Old Christmas Returned,

OR, HOSPITALITY REVIVED;

Being a Looking-glass for rich Misers, wherein they may see (if they be not blind) how much they are to blame for their penurious housekeeping, and likewise an encouragement to those noble-minded gentry, who lay out a great part of their estates in hospitality, relieving such persons as have need thereof;

"Who feasts the poor, a true reward shall find,
Or helps the old, the feeble, lame, and blind."

To the tune of "The Delights of the Bottle."

ALL you that to feasting and mirth are inclined,
Come here is good news for to pleasure your mind,
Old Christmas is come for to keep open house,
He scorns to be guilty of starving a mouse:
Then come, boys, and welcome for diet the chief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Digitized by Google

A long time together he hath been forgot,
They scarce could afford to hang on the pot;
Such miserly sneaking in England hath been,
As by our forefathers ne'er us'd to be seen;
But now he's returned you shall have in brief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

The times were ne'er good since Old Christmas was fled,
And all hospitality hath been so dead;
No mirth at our festivals late did appear,
They scarcely would part with a cup of March beer;
But now you shall have for the ease of your grief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

The butler and baker, they now may be glad,
The times they are mended, though they have been bad;
The brewer, he likewise may be of good cheer,
He shall have good trading for ale and strong beer;
All trades shall be jolly, and have for relief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Digitized by Google

The holly and ivy about the walls wind,
And show that we ought to our neighbours be kind,
Inviting each other for pastime and sport,
And where we best fare, there we most do resort;
We fail not of victuals, and that of the chief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

The cooks shall be busied by day and by night,
In roasting and boiling, for taste and delight;
Their senses in liquor that's nappy they'll steep,
Though they be afforded to have little sleep;
They still are employed for to dress us in brief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Although the cold weather doth hunger provoke,
'Tis a comfort to see how the chimneys do smoke;
Provision is making for beer, ale, and wine,
For all that are willing or ready to dine:
Then haste to the kitchen for diet the chief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Digitized by Google

All travellers, as they do pass on their way,
At gentlemen's halls are invited to stay,
Themselves to refresh, and their horses to rest,
Since that he must be Old Christmas's guest;
Nay, the poor shall not want, but have for relief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Now Mock-beggar-hall it no more shall stand empty,
But all shall be furnisht with freedom and plenty;
The hoarding old misers, who us'd to preserve
The gold in their coffers, and see the poor starve,
Must now spread their tables, and give them in brief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

The court, and the city, and country are glad,
Old Christmas is come to cheer up the sad;
Broad pieces and guineas about now shall fly,
And hundreds be losers by cogging a die,
Whilst others are feasting with diet the chief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Digitized by Google

Those that have no coin at the cards for to play,
May sit by the fire, and pass time away,
And drink of their moisture contented and free,
"My honest good fellow, come, here is to thee!"
And when they are hungry, fall to their relief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Young gallants and ladies shall foot it along,
Each room in the house to the music shall throng,
Whilst jolly carouses about they shall pass,
And each country swain trip about with his lass;
Meantime goes the caterer to fetch in the chief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

The cooks and the scullion, who toil in their frocks,
Their hopes do depend upon their Christmas box;
There is very few that do live on the earth
But enjoy at this time either profit or mirth;
Yea those that are charged to find all relief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Digitized by Google

Then well may we welcome Old Christmas to town,
Who brings us good cheer, and good liquor so brown;
To pass the cold winter away with delight,
We feast it all day, and we frolick all night;
Both hunger and cold we keep out with relief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Then let all curmudgeons who dote on their wealth,
And value their treasure much more than their health,
Go hang themselves up, if they will be so kind;
Old Christmas with them but small welcome shall find;
They will not afford to themselves without grief,
Plum-pudding, goose, capon, minced pies, and roast-beef.

Digitized by Google

From Round about our Coal Fire, 1740.

O you merry, merry Souls.

O YOU merry, merry Souls,
Christmas is a-coming,
We shall have flowing bowls,
Dancing, piping, drumming.

Delicate minced pies
To feast every virgin,
Capon and goose likewise,
Brawn and a dish of sturgeon.

Then, for your Christmas box,
Sweet plum cakes and money,
Delicate holland smocks,
Kisses sweet as honey.

Hey for the Christmas ball,
Where we shall be jolly,
Jigging short and tall,
Kate, Dick, Ralph, and Molly.

Digitized by Google

Then to the Hop we'll go
Where we'll jig and caper;
Maidens all-a-row;
Will shall pay the scraper.

Hodge shall dance with Prue,
Keeping time with kisses;
We'll have a jovial crew
Of sweet smirking misses.

Digitized by Google

From Ritson's Ancient Songs, where it is stated to be from Wynkyn de Worde's Christmasse Carolles, 1521.

A Carol.

BRINGING IN THE BOAR'S HEAD.

CAPUT apri defero
Reddens laudes domino.
The boar's head in hand bring I,
With garlands gay and rosemary;
I pray you all sing merrily
Qui estis in convivio.

The boar's head, I understand,
Is the chief service in this land;
Look, wherever it be fand,
Servite cum cantico.

Be glad, lords, both more and less,
For this hath ordained our steward
To cheer you all this Christmas,
The boar's head with mustard.

Digitized by Google

A modern version of the previous Carol. From Dibdin's Typog. Antiq. ii. 252.

The Boar's Head Carol.

SUNG AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.

THE boar's head in hand bear I,
Bedecked with bays and rosemary;
And I pray you, my masters, be merry,
Quot estis in convivo.
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes domino.

The boar's head, as I understand,
Is the rarest dish in all this land,
Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland
Let us servire cantico.
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes domino.

Our steward hath provided this
In honour of the King of bliss;
Which on this day to be served is
In Reginensi Atrio.
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes domino.

Digitized by Google

From the Christmas Prince, 1607 (*printed in* 1814).

Boar's Head Carol.

SUNG AT ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, CHRISTMAS, 1607.

1. THE Boar is dead,
Lo, here his head;
What man could have done more
Than his head off to strike,
Meleager-like,
And bring it as I do before.

2. He living spoiled
Where good men toiled,
Which made kind Ceres sorry;
But now dead and drawn
Is very good brawn,
And we have brought it for ye.

3. Then set down the swineyard,
The foe to the Vineyard,
Let Bacchus crown his fall;
Let this boar's-head and mustard
Stand for pig, goose, and custard,
And so ye are welcome all.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Herrick.

The Wassail.

GIVE way, give way, ye gates, and win
An easy blessing to your bin
And basket by our entering in.

May both with manchet stand replete;
Your larders too so hung with meat
That, though a thousand thousand eat,

Yet, ere twelve moons shall whirl about
Their silvery spheres, there's none may doubt
But more's sent in than was serv'd out.

Next may your dairies prosper so
As that your pans no ebb may know;
But if they do, the more to flow,

Like to a solemn sober stream,
Bank'd all with lilies and the cream
Of sweetest cowslips filling them.

Digitized by Google

Then may your plants be pressed with fruit,
Nor bee or hive you have be mute,
But sweetly sounding like a lute.

Next may your duck and teeming hen
Both to the cock's-tread say Amen,
And for their two eggs render ten.

Last, may your harrows, shares and ploughs,
Your stacks, your stocks, your sweetest mows,
All prosper by your virgin-vows.

Alas! we bless, but see none here
That brings us either ale or beer:
In a dry house all things are near.

Let's leave a longer time to wait,
When rust and cobwebs bind the gate
And all live here with needy Fate.

Where chimneys do for ever weep
For want of warmth, and stomachs keep
With noise the servants' eyes from sleep.

Digitized by Google

It is in vain to sing or stay
Our free feet here ; but we'll away :
Yet to the Lares this we'll say,—

The time will come when you'll be sad
And reckon this for fortune bad,
T' have lost the good ye might have had.

Digitized by Google

From an undated black letter collection of New Christmas Carols (preserved in the Bodleian Library).

Wassailing Song.

A JOLLY wassail bowl,
A wassail of good ale;
Well fare the butler's soul
That setteth this to sale;
Our jolly wassail.

Good dame, here at your door
Our wassail we begin,
We are all maidens poor,
We pray now let us in
With our wassail.

Our wassail we do fill
With apples and with spice,
Then grant us your good will
To taste here once or twice
Of our good wassail.

Digitized by Google

If any maidens be
Here dwelling in this house,
They kindly will agree
To take a full carouse
Of our wassail.

But here they let us stand
All freezing in the cold:
Good master, give command
To enter and be bold,
With our wassail.

Much joy into this hall
With us is entered in,
Our master first of all
We hope will now begin
Of our wassail.

And after, his good wife
Our spicèd bowl will try;
The Lord prolong your life!
Good fortune we espy
For our wassail.

Digitized by Google

Some bounty from your hands
Our wassail to maintain;
We'll buy no house nor lands
With that which we do gain
With our wassail.

This is our merry night
Of choosing king and queen
Then be it your delight
That something may be seen
In our wassail.

It is a noble part
To bear a liberal mind;
God bless our master's heart!
For here we comfort find,
With our wassail

And now we must begone
To seek out more good cheer,
Where bounty will be shown
As we have found it here,
With our wassail.

Digitized by Google

Much joy betide them all,
Our prayers shall be still,
We hope and ever shall
For this your great good will
To our wassail.

Digitized by Google

This piece and the next were communicated to Notes and Queries (4th series, ii. 551), by Cuthbert Bede.

Wassailing Song.

WE wish you merry Christmas, also a glad New Year;
We come to bring you tidings to all mankind so dear;
We come to tell that Jesus was born in Bethl'em town,
And now he's gone to glory and pityingly looks down
On us poor wassailers,
As wassailing we go;
With footsteps sore
From door to door
We trudge through sleet and snow.

A manger was his cradle, the straw it was his bed,
The oxen were around him within that lowly shed;
No servants waited on him with lords and ladies gay;
But now he's gone to glory and unto him we pray.
Us poor wassailers, &c.

Digitized by Google

His mother loved and tended him and nursed him
at her breast,
And good old Joseph watched them both the while
they took their rest;
And wicked Herod vainly sought to rob them of their
child,
By slaughtering the Innocents in Bethlehem un-
defiled.
But us poor wassailers, &c.

Now, all good Christian people, with great concern
we sing
These tidings of your Jesus, the Saviour, Lord and
King;
In poverty he passed his days that riches we might
share,
And of your wealth he bids you give and of your
portion spare
To us poor wassailers, &c.

Your wife shall be a fruitful vine, a hus'sif good and
able;
Your children like the olive branches round about
your table;

Digitized by Google

Your barns shall burst with plenty and your crops shall be secure
If you will give your charity to us who are so poor.
Us poor wassailers, &c.

And now no more we'll sing to you because the hour is late,
And we must trudge and sing our song at many another gate;
And so we'll wish you once again a merry Christmas time,
And pray God bless you while you give good silver for our rhyme.
Us poor wassailers, &c.

Digitized by Google

Here we come a Whistling.

HERE we come a whistling through the fields so green;
Here we come a singing, so fair to be seen.
God send you happy, God send you happy,
Pray God send you a happy New Year!

The roads are very dirty, my boots are very thin,
I have a little pocket to put a penny in.
God send you happy, &c.

Bring out your little table and spread it with a cloth,
Bring out some of your old ale, likewise your Christmas loaf,
God send you happy, &c.

God bless the master of this house, likewise the mistress too;
And all the little children that round the table strew.
God send you happy, &c.

Digitized by Google

THE cock sat up in the yew tree,
The hen came chuckling by,
I wish you a merry Christmas,
And a good fat pig in the sty.

Digitized by Google

From Chappell's Collection of ancient English Melodies, p. 161. Another version is given in Hone's Table Book, ii. 14.

Wassail, wassail, all over the Town.

WASSAIL, wassail, all over the town,
Our bread it is white, and our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of the maplin tree,
So here, my good fellow, I'll drink it to thee.

The wassailing bowl, with a toast within,
Come, fill it up unto the brim;
Come fill it up that we may all see;
With the wassailing bowl I'll drink to thee.

Come, butler, come bring us a bowl of your best,
And we hope your soul in heaven shall rest;
But if you do bring us a bowl of your small,
Then down shall go butler, the bowl and all.

O butler, O butler, now don't you be worst,
But pull out your knife and cut us a toast;
And cut us a toast, one that we may all see;—
With the wassailing bowl I'll drink to thee.

Digitized by Google

Here's to Dobbin and to his right eye!
God send our mistress a good Christmas pie!
A good Christmas pie as e'er we did see;—
With the wassailing bowl I'll drink to thee.

Here's to Broad May and to his broad horn,
God send our master a good crop of corn,
A good crop of corn as we all may see;—
With the wassailing bowl I'll drink to thee.

Here's to Colly and to her long tail,
We hope our master and mistress heart will ne'er fail;
But bring us a bowl of your good strong beer,
And then we shall taste of your happy new year.

Be there here any pretty maids? we hope there be some;
Don't let the jolly wassailers stand on the cold stone,
But open the door and pull out the pin,
That we jolly wassailers may all sail in.

Digitized by Google

From Wright's Songs and Carols (Percy Society). An inferior version (from MS. Harl. 541) was printed by Ritson.

Bring us in good Ale.

BRING us in good ale, and bring us in good ale;
For our blessed Lady's sake, bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no brown bread, for that is made of bran,
Nor bring us in no white bread, for therein is no game,
But bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no beef, for there is many bones,
But bring us in good ale, for that goeth down at once;
And bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no bacon, for that is passing fat,
But bring us in good ale, and give us enough of that;
And bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no mutton, for that is often lean,
Nor bring us in no tripes, for they be seldom clean;
But bring us in good ale.

Digitized by Google

Bring us in no eggs, for there are many shells,
But bring us in good ale, and give us nothing else;
And bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no butter, for therein are many hairs,
Nor bring us in no pig's flesh, for that will make us boars;
But bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no puddings, for therein is all God's good,
Nor bring us in no venison, for that is not for our blood;
But bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no capon's flesh, for that is ofte[n] dear,
Nor bring us in no duck's flesh, for they slobber in the mere;
But bring us in good ale.

Digitized by Google

This and the three following pieces are from New Christmas Carols, 1642.

Come follow, follow me.

TO THE TUNE OF THE "SPANISH GIPSIES."

COME follow, follow me,
Those that good fellows be,
Into the buttery
Our manhood for to try;
The Master keeps a bounteous house,
And gives leave freely to carouse.

Then wherefore should we fear,
Seeing here is store of cheer?
It shows but cowardice
At this time to be nice.
Then boldly draw your blades and fight,
For we shall have a merry night.

When we have done this fray,
Then we will go to play

Digitized by Google

At cards or else at dice,
And be rich in a trice;
Then let the knaves go round apace,
I hope each time to have an ace.

Come, maids, let's want no beer
After our Christmas cheer,
And I will duly crave
Good husbands you may have,
And that you may good houses keep,
Where we may drink carouses deep.

And when that's spent the day
We'll Christmas gambols play,
At hot cockles beside
And then go to all-hide,
With many other pretty toys,
Men, women, youths, maids, girls and boys.

Come, let's dance round the hall,
And let's for liquor call;
Put apples in the fire,
Sweet maids, I you desire;
And let a bowl be spiced well
Of happy stuff that doth excel.

Digitized by Google

Twelve days we now have spent
In mirth and merriment,
And daintily did fare,
For which we took no care;
But now I sadly call to mind
What days of sorrow are behind.

We must leave off to play,
To morrow's working-day;
According to each calling
Each man must now be falling,
And ply his business all the year,
Next Christmas for to make good cheer,

Now of my master kind
Good welcome I did find,
And of my loving mistress
This merry time of Christmas;
For which to them great thanks I give,
God grant they long together live.

Digitized by Google

All you that are good Fellows.

ALL you that are good fellows
Come hearken to my song;
I know you do not hate good cheer
Nor liquor that is strong.
I hope there is none here
But soon will take my part,
Seeing my master and my dame
Says welcome with their heart.

This is a time of joyfulness
And merry time of year,
Whereas the rich with plenty stored
Doth make the poor good cheer;
Plum-porridge, roast-beef, and minced pies
Stand smoking on the board,
With other brave varieties
Our master doth afford.

Digitized by Google

Our mistress and her cleanly maids
Have neatly played the cooks ;
Methinks these dishes eagerly
At my sharp stomach looks,
As though they were afraid
To see me draw my blade,
But I revenged on them will be
Until my stomach's stayed.

Come fill us of the strongest,
Small drink is out of date,
Methinks I shall fare like a prince
And sit in gallant state :
This is no miser's feast,
Although that things be dear ;
God grant the founder of this feast
Each Christmas keep good cheer.

This day for Christ we celebrate
Who was born at this time ;
For which all Christians should rejoice
And I do sing in rhyme.
When you have given God thanks,
Unto your dainties fall :
Heaven bless my master and my dame,
Lord bless me and you all.

Digitized by Google

Come, mad Boys.

To the tune of "Bonny Sweet Robin."

COME, mad boys, be glad, boys, for Christmas is here,
And we shall be feasted with jolly good cheer;
Then let us be merry, 'tis Saint Stephen's day,
Let's eat and drink freely, here's nothing to pay.

My master bids welcome, and so doth my dame,
And 'tis yonder smoking dish doth me inflame;
Anon I'll be with you, though you me outface,
For now I do tell you I have time and place.

I'll troll the bowl to you, then let it go round,
My heels are so light they can stand on no ground;
My tongue it doth chatter, and goes pitter patter,
Here's good beer and strong beer, for I will not flatter.

Digitized by Google

And now for remembrance of blessed Saint Stephen,
Let's joy at morning, at noon, and at even;[1]
Then leave off your mincing, and fall to mince-pies,
I pray take my counsel, be ruled by the wise.

[1] Old ed. "evening."

Digitized by Google

Come bravely on, my Masters.

To the tune of "The King's going to Bulleine."

COME bravely on, my masters,
For here we shall be tasters
Of curious dishes that are brave and fine,
Where they that do such cheer afford,
I'll lay my knife upon the board,
My master and my dame they do not pine.

Who is't will not be merry
And sing down, down, aderry?
For now it is a time of joy and mirth;
'Tis said 'tis merry in the hall
When as beards they do wag all;
God's plenty's here, it doth not show a dearth.

Let him take all lives longest,
Come fill us of the strongest,
And I will drink a health to honest John;
Come pray thee, butler, fill the bowl,
And let it round the table troll,
When that is up I'll tell you more anon.

Digitized by Google

From New Christmas Carols (no date).

My Master and Dame, I well perceive.

To the tune of "Green Sleeves."

MY master and dame, I well perceive,
Are purposed to be merry to-night,
And willingly hath given me leave
To combat with a Christmas Knight.
Sir Pig, I see, comes prancing in
And bids me draw if that I dare;
I care not for his valour a pin,
For Jack of him will have a share.

My lady goose among the rest
Upon the table takes her place,
And piping-hot bids do my best,
And bravely looks me in the face;
For pigs and geese are gallant cheer,
God bless my master and dame therefore!
I trust before the next New Year
To eat my part of half a score.

Digitized by Google

I likewise see good minced-pie
Here standing swaggering on the table;
The lofty walls so large and high
I'll level down if I be able;
For they be furnished with good plums,
And spiced well with pepper and salt,
Every prune as big as both my thumbs
To drive down bravely the juice of malt.

Fill me some of your Christmas beer,
Your pepper sets my mouth on heat,
And Jack's a-dry with your good cheer,
Give me some good ale to my meat.
And then again my stomach I'll show,
For good roast-beef here stoutly stands;
I'll make it stoop before I go,
Or I'll be no man of my hands.

And for the plenty of this house
God keep it thus well-stored alway;
Come, butler, fill me a good carouse,
And so we'll end our Christmas day.

Digitized by Google

This piece and the next are from New Christmas Carols, 1661.

With merry Glee and Solace.

FOR ST. STEPHEN'S DAY.

To the tune of "Henry's going to Bullen.'

WITH merry glee and solace
This second day of Christmas
Now comes in bravely to my master's house,
Where plenty of good cheer I see,
With that which most contenteth me,
As brawn and bacon, powdered beef and souse.

For the love of Stephen,
That blessed saint of heaven,
Which stonèd was [for] Jesus Christ his sake,
Let us all both more and less
Cast away all heaviness,
And in a sober manner merry make.

Digitized by Google

He was a man beloved,
And his faith approved
By suffering death on this holy day,
Where he with gentle patience
And a constant sufferance,
Hath taught us all to heaven the ready way.[1]

So let our mirth be civil,
That not one thought of evil
May take possession of our hearts at all,
So shall we love and favour get
Of them that kindly thus do set
Their bounties here so freely in this hall.

Of delicates so dainty,
I see now here is plenty
Upon this table ready here prepared;
Then let us now give thanks to those
That all things friendly thus bestows,
Esteeming not this world that is so hard.

For of the same my master
Hath made me here a taster;

[1] The old ed. gives "Hath taught to us all heaven," &c.

Digitized by Google

The Lord above requite him for the same !
And so to all within this house
I will drink a full carouse,
With leave of my good master and my dame.

And the Lord be praised
My stomach is well eased,
My bones at quiet may go take their rest ;
Good fortune surely followed me
To bring me thus so luckily
To eat and drink so freely of the best.

Digitized by Google

In honour of Saint John we thus.

(FOR ST. JOHN'S DAY.)

To the tune of "Sellenger's Round."

IN honour of Saint John we thus
Do keep good Christmas cheer;
And he that comes to dine with us,
I think he need not spare.
The butcher he hath killed good beef,
The caterer brings it in;
But Christmas pies are still the chief,
If that I durst begin.

Our bacon-hogs are full and fat
To make us brawn and souse;
Full well may I rejoice thereat
To see them in the house.

Digitized by Google

But yet the minced pie it is
That sets my teeth on water;
Good mistress, let me have a bit,
For I do long thereafter.

And I will fetch your water in
To brew and bake withal,
Your love and favour still to win
When as you please to call.
Then grant me, dame, your love and leave
To taste your pie-meat here;
It is the best in my conceit
Of all your Christmas-cheer.

The cloves and mace and gallant plums[1]
That here on heaps do lie,
[And prunes] as big as both my thumbs,
Enticeth much mine eye.
Oh, let me eat my belly-full
Of your good Christmas-pie;
Except thereat I have a pull,
I think I sure shall die.

Good master, stand my loving friend,
For Christmas-time is short,

[1] Old ed. "prunes."—Cf. p. 198, ll. 5–7.

Digitized by Google

And when it comes unto an end
I may no longer sport;
Then while it doth continue here
Let me such labour find,
To eat my fill of that good cheer
That best doth please my mind.

Then I shall thank my dame therefore,
That gives her kind consent,
That Jack your boy with others more
May have this Christmas spent
In pleasant mirth and merry glee,
As young men most delight;
For that's the only sport for me,
And so God give you all good-night.

Digitized by Google

From New Christmas Carols (no date).

The New Year is begun.

THE SHEPHERD'S CAROL TO BE SUNG ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Tune, "Humming of the Drone."

THE New Year is begun,
Good morrow, my masters all!
The cheerful rising sun
Now shining in this hall,
Brings mirth and joy
To man and boy.
With all that here doth dwell;
Whom Jesus bless
With love's increase,
So all things shall prosper well.

A New Year's gift I bring
Unto my master here,
Which is a welcome thing
Of mirth and merry cheer.

Digitized by Google

A New Year's lamb
Come from thy dam
An hour before daybreak,
Your noted ewe
Doth this bestow,
Good master, for your sake.

And to my dame so kind
This New Year's gift I bring;
I'll bear an honest mind
Unto her whilst I live.
Your white-wooled sheep
I'll safely keep
From harm of bush or brere,[1]
That garments gay
For your array
May clothe you the next New Year.

And to your children all,
These New Year's gifts I bring;
And though the price be small,
They're fit for queen or king:
Fair pippins red
Kept in my bed

[1] Old ed. "Bryar."

Digitized by Google

A-mellowing since last year,
Whose beauty bright
So clear of sight
Their hearts will glad and cheer.

And to your maids and men
I bring both points and pins;
Come bid me welcome then,
The good New Year begins:
And for my love
Let me approve
The friendship of your Maid,
Whose nappy ale
So good and stale
Will make my wits afraid.

I dare not with it deal
But in a sober diet:
If I poor shepherd steal
A draught to be unquiet,
And lose my way
This New Year's day
As I go to my fold,
You'll surely think
My love of drink
This following year will hold.

Digitized by Google

Here stands my bottle and hook,
Good kitchen-maid, draw near,
Thou art an honest cook,
And canst brew ale and beer;
Thy office show,
Before I go,
My bottle and bag come fill,
And for thy sake
I'll merry make
Upon the next green hill.

Digitized by Google

From A Cabinet of Choice Jewels, or the Christian's Joy and Gladness, 1688.

The Young Men and Maids on New Year's Day.

Tune of "Caper and jerk it."

THE young men and maids on New Year's day,
Their loves they will present
With many a gift both fine and gay,
Which gives them true content:
And though the gift be great or small,
Yet this is the custom still,
Expressing their loves in ribbons and gloves,
It being their kind good-will.

Young bachelors will not spare their coin,
But thus their love is shown;
Young Richard will buy a bodkin fine
And give it honest Joan.
There's Nancy and Sue with honest Prue,
Young damsels both fair and gay,
Will give to the men choice presents agen
For the honour of New Year's day.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

From New Christmas Carols, 1642.

ear now away is Fled.

une of "Green Sleeves."

d year now away is fled,
new year it is entered,
us now our sins down tread
yfully all appear.
rry be this holiday,
us now both sport and play,
orrow, let's cast care away:
send you a happy New Year!

rist's circumcision this day we keep,
r our sins did often weep;
nds and feet were wounded deep,
side, with a spear.
ned then with thorn,
laugh and scorn,
souls was born;
py New Year!

Digitized by Google

Fine ruffs, cravats of curious lace,
Maids give them fine and neat;
For this the young men will them embrace
With tender kisses sweet:
And give them many pleasant toys
To deck them fine and gay,
As bodkins and rings with other fine things
For the honour of New Year's day.

It being the first day of the year,
To make the old amends,
All those that have it will dress good cheer
Inviting all their friends.
To drink great James's royal health,
As very well subjects may,
With many healths more, which we have store,
For the honour of New Year's day.

Digitized by Google

From New Christmas Carols, 1642.

The Old Year now away is Fled.

To the tune of "Green Sleeves."

THE old year now away is fled,
The new year it is entered,
Then let us now our sins down tread
And joyfully all appear.
Let's merry be this holiday,
And let us now both sport and play,
Hang sorrow, let's cast care away:
God send you a happy New Year!

For Christ's circumcision this day we keep,
Who for our sins did often weep;
His hands and feet were wounded deep,
And his blessed side, with a spear.
His head they crowned then with thorn,
And at him they did laugh and scorn,
Who for to save our souls was born;
God send us a happy New Year!

Digitized by Google

And now with New-Year's gifts each friend
Unto each other they do send;
God grant we may all our lives amend,
And that the truth may appear.
Now like the snake cast-off your skin
Of evil thoughts and wicked sin,
And to amend this New Year begin:
God send us a merry New Year!

And now let all the company
In friendly manner all agree,
For we are here welcome, all may see,
Unto this jolly good cheer.
I thank my master and my dame,
The which are founders of the same;
To eat, to drink now is no shame:
God send us a merry New Year!

Come lads and lasses every one,
Jack, Tom, Dick, Bessy, Mary and Joan,
Let's cut the meat up unto the bone,
For welcome you need not fear;
And here for good liquor we shall not lack,
It will whet my brains and strengthen my back;
This jolly good cheer it must go to wrack:
God send us a merry New Year!

Digitized by Google

Come, give's more liquor when I do call,
I'll drink to each one in this hall;
I hope that so loud I must not bawl,
But unto me lend an ear;
Good fortune to my master send,
And to my dame which is our friend,
Lord bless us all, and so I end:
God send us a happy New Year!

Digitized by Google

From Poor Robin's Almanac, 1664.

Provide for Christmas.

PROVIDE for Christmas ere that it do come,
To feast thy neighbour good cheer to have some;
Good bread and drink, a fire in the hall,
Brawn, pudding, souse and good mustard withal;
Beef, mutton, pork, and shred pies of the best,
Pig, veal, goose, capon, and turkey well drest;
Apples and nuts to throw about the hall,
That boys and girls may scramble for them all.
Sing jolly carols, make the fiddlers play,
Let scrupulous fanatics keep away;
For oftentimes seen no arranter knave
Than some who do counterfeit most to be grave.

Digitized by Google

From Poor Robin's Almanac, 1695.

Now thrice welcome, Christmas.

NOW thrice welcome, Christmas,
Which brings us good cheer,
Minced pies and plum porridge,
Good ale and strong beer;
With pig, goose and capon,
The best that may be,
So well doth the weather
And our stomachs agree.

Observe how the chimneys
Do smoke all about,
The cooks are providing
For dinner, no doubt;
But those on whose tables
No victuals appear,
O may they keep Lent
All the rest of the year.

Digitized by Google

With holly and ivy
So green and so gay,
We deck up our houses
As fresh as the day;
With bay and rosemary
And laurel complete;
And every one now
Is a king in conceit.

Digitized by Google

1663-1776

From Poor Robin's Almanac, 1700.

Now that the time is come wherein.

NOW that the time is come wherein
Our Saviour Christ was born,
The larders full of beef and pork,
The garners fill'd with corn;
As God hath plenty to thee sent,
Take comfort of thy labours,
And let it never thee repent
To feast thy needy neighbours.

Let fires in every chimney be
That people they may warm them;
Tables with dishes covered,—
Good victuals will not harm them.
With mutton, veal, beef, pig and pork,
Well furnish every board;
Plum-pudding, furmity and what
Thy stock will them afford.

Digitized by Google

No niggard of thy liquor be,
Let it go round thy table;
People may freely drink, but not
So long as they are able.
Good customs they may be abused,
Which makes rich men to slack us;
This feast is to relieve the poor
And not to drunken Bacchus.

Thus if thou doest
'Twill credit raise thee;
God will thee bless
And neighbours praise thee.

Digitized by Google

From Poor Robin's Almanac, 1701.

Now enter Christmas like a man.

NOW enter Christmas like a man,
Armed with spit and dripping-pan,
Attended with pasty, plum-pie,
Puddings, plum-porridge, furmity;
With beef, pork, mutton of each sort
More than my pen can make report;
Pig, swan, goose, rabbits, partridge, teal,
With legs and loins and breasts of veal:
But above all the minced pies
Must mention'd be in any wise,
Or else my Muse were much to blame,
Since they from Christmas take their name.
With these, or any one of these,
A man may dine well if he please;
Yet this must well be understood,—
Though one of these be singly good,
Yet more the merrier is the best
As well of dishes as of guest.
But the times are grown so bad
Scarce one dish for the poor is had;

Digitized by Google

Good housekeeping is laid aside,
And all is spent to maintain pride;
Good works are counted popish, and
Small charity is in the land.
A man may sooner (truth I tell ye)
Break his own neck than fill his belly.
Good God, amend what is amiss
And send a remedy to this,
That Christmas day again may rise
And we enjoy our Christmas pies.

Digitized by Google

From Poor Robin's Almanac, 1715.

Now Christmas comes 'tis fit that we.

NOW Christmas comes, 'tis fit that we
Should feast and sing and merry be,
Keep open house, let fiddlers play;
A fig for cold, sing care away!
And may they who thereat repine,
On brown bread and on small beer dine.
Make fires with logs, let the cooks sweat
With boiling and with roasting meat;
Let ovens be heat for fresh supplies
Of puddings, pasties, and minced pies,
And whilst that Christmas doth abide
Let butt'ry-door stand open wide.
Hang up those churls that will not feast
Or with good fellows be a guest,
And hang up those would take away
The observation of that day;
O may they never minced pies eat,
Plum-pudding, roast-beef, nor such meat.

Digitized by Google

But blest be they, awake and sleep,
Who at that time [a] good house keep
May never want come nigh their door,
Who at that time relieve the poor;
Be plenty always in their house
Of beef, veal, lamb, pork, mutton, souse.

Digitized by Google

From the Bishoprick Garland, 1834 (a collection of songs, ballads, etc., belonging to the county of Durham).

Maids, get up and Bake your Pies.

MAIDS, get up and bake your pies,
Bake your pies, bake your pies;
Maids, get up and bake your pies,
'Tis Christmas day in the morning.

See the ships all sailing by,
Sailing by, sailing by;
See the ships all sailing by
On Christmas day in the morning.

DAME, what made your ducks to die,
Ducks to die, ducks to die;
Dame, what made your ducks to die
On Christmas day in the morning?

Digitized by Google

You let your lazy maidens lie,
Maidens lie, maidens lie;
You let your lazy maidens lie
On Christmas day in the morning.

Digitized by Google

From Thomas Weelkes' Madrigals, 1597.

To shorten Winter's sadness.

TO shorten winter's sadness
See where the nymphs with gladness
Disguised all are coming,
Right wantonly a mumming.
Fa la.

Whilst youthful sports are lasting,
To feasting turn our fasting;
With revels and with wassails
Make grief and care our vassals.
Fa la.

For youth it well beseemeth
That pleasure he esteemeth;
And sullen age is hated
That mirth would have abated.
Fa la.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Herrick.

A New Year's Gift sent to Sir Simeon Steward.

NO news of navies burnt at seas;
No noise of late-spawned tittyries;
No closet-plot or open vent
That frights men with a parliament;
No new device or late-found trick
To read by th' stars the kingdom's sick;
No gin to catch the state or ring
The free-born nostrils of the king,
We send to you: but here a jolly
Verse, crown'd with ivy and with holly,
That tells of winter's tales and mirth
That milk-maids make about the hearth;
Of Christmas-sports; the wassail bowl;
That tost up, after fox-i'-th'-hole;
Of blind-man's-buff, and of the care
That young men have to shoe the mare;
Of Twelfth-tide cakes, of pease and beans,
Wherewith ye make those merry scenes,

Digitized by Google

Whenas ye chuse your king and queen
And cry out *Hey for our town-green!*
Of ash-heaps, in the which ye use
Husbands and wives by streaks to chuse;
Of cracking laurel, which foresounds
A plenteous harvest to your grounds:
Of these and such like things, for shift,
We send instead of New-Year's gift.
Read then, and when your faces shine
With buxom meat and cap'ring wine,
Remember us in cups full-crown'd
And let our city-health go round,
Quite though the young maids and the men
To the ninth number, if not ten;
Until the fired chestnuts leap
For joy to see the fruits ye reap
From the plump chalice and the cup,
That tempts till it be tossèd up;
Then, as ye sit about your embers,
Call not to mind those fled Decembers,
But think on these that are t'appear
As daughters to the instant year.
Sit crowned with rose-buds, and carouse
Till Liber Pater twirls the house
About your ears, and lay upon
The year, your cares, that's fled and gone.

Digitized by Google

And let the russet swains the plough
And harrow hang up resting now,
And to the bagpipe all address
Till sleep takes place of weariness.
And thus throughout with Christmas plays
Frolic the full twelve holidays.

Digitized by Google

By Robert Herrick.

Twelfth Night;

OR, KING AND QUEEN.

NOW, now the mirth comes,
With the cake full of plums,
Where bean's the king of the sport here;
Beside we must know,
The pea also
Must revel as queen in the court here.

Begin then to chuse,
This night as ye use,
Who shall for the present delight here;
Be a king by the lot,
And who shall not
Be Twelfth-day queen for the night here.

Which known, let us make
Joy-sops with the cake;
And let not a man then be seen here
Who unurg'd will not drink,
To the base from the brink,
A health to the king and the queen here.

Digitized by Google

Next crown the bowl full
With gentle lambs-wool;
Add sugar, nutmeg, and ginger,
With store of ale too;
And thus ye must do
To make the wassail a swinger.

Give then to the king
And queen wassailing,
And though with ale ye be whet here,
Yet part ye from hence,
As free from offence,
As when ye innocent met here.

Digitized by Google

From Sir Walter Scott's Marmion.
(Introduction to Canto VI.)

Christmas in the Olden Time.

THE damsel donned her kirtle sheen;
The hall was dressed with holly green;
Forth to the wood did merry-men go
To gather in the misletoe.
Then opened wide the baron's hall
To vassal, tenant, serf and all;
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And ceremony doffed his pride.
The heir, with roses in his shoes,
That night might village-partner chuse;
The lord underogating share
The vulgar game of post-and-pair.
All hailed with uncontrolled delight
And general voice, the happy night,
That to the cottage as the crown
Brought tidings of salvation down.
The fire with well-dried logs supplied
Went roaring up the chimney wide;

Digitized by Google

The huge hall-table's oaken face,
Scrubbed till it shone, the day to grace,
Bore then upon its massive board
No mark to part the squire and lord.
Then was brought in the lusty brawn
By old blue-coated serving-man;
Then the grim boar's head frowned on high,
Crested with bay and rosemary.
Well can the green-garbed ranger tell
How, when, and where the monster fell;
What dogs before his death he tore,
And all the baiting of the boar.
The wassail round, in good brown bowls,
Garnished with ribbons blithely trowls.
There the huge sir-loin reeked; hard by
Plum-porridge stood and Christmas pie;
Nor failed old Scotland to produce
At such high tide her savoury goose.
Then came the merry masquers in
And carols roared with blithesome din;
If unmelodious was the song
It was a hearty note and strong.
Who lists may in their mumming see
Traces of ancient mystery;
White shirts supplied the masquerade,
And smutted cheeks the visors made:

Digitized by Google

But, oh! what masquers richly dight
Can boast of bosoms half so light!
England was merry England when
Old Christmas brought his sports again.
'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale,
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
A Christmas gambol oft would cheer
The poor man's heart through half the year.

Digitized by Google

Dedication of Wordsworth's River Duddon Sonnets. Addressed to his brother, Dr. Christopher Wordsworth.

Christmas Minstrelsy.

THE minstrels played their Christmas tune
To-night beneath my cottage eaves;
While smitten by a lofty moon,
The encircling laurels thick with leaves,
Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen,
That overpowered their natural green.

Through hill and valley every breeze
Had sunk to rest with folded wings:
Keen was the air, but could not freeze
Nor check the music of the strings;
So stout and hardy were the band
That scraped the chords with strenuous hand.

And who but listened?—till was paid
Respect to every inmate's claim,
The greeting given, the music played
In honour of each household name,
Duly pronounced with lusty call,
And a merry Christmas wished to all.

Digitized by Google

O Brother! I revere the choice
That took thee from thy native hills;
And it is given thee to rejoice:
Though public care full often tills
(Heaven only witness of the toil)
A barren and ungrateful soil.

Yet would that thou, with me and mine,
Hadst heard this never-failing rite;
And seen on other faces shine
A true revival of the light;
Which nature, and these rustic powers,
In simple childhood, spread through ours!

For pleasure hath not ceased to wait
On these expected annual rounds,
Whether the rich man's sumptuous gate
Call forth the unelaborate sounds,
Or they are offered at the door
That guards the lowliest of the poor.

How touching, when at midnight, sweep
Snow-muffled winds, and all is dark,
To hear—and sink again to sleep!
Or at an earlier call, to mark,
By blazing fire, the still suspense
Of self-complacent innocence;

Digitized by Google

The mutual nod—the grave disguise
Of hearts with gladness brimming o'er,
And some unhidden tears that rise
For names once heard, and heard no more;
Tears brightened by the serenade
For infant in the cradle laid!

Ah! not for emerald fields alone,
With ambient streams more pure and bright
Than fabled Cytherea's zone
Glittering before the Thunderer's sight,
Is to my heart of hearts endeared,
The ground where we were born and reared!

Hail ancient manners! sure defence,
Where they survive, of wholesome laws:
Remnants of love whose modest sense
Thus into narrow room withdraws;
Hail usages of pristine mould,
And ye that guard them, mountains old!

Bear with me, Brother! quench the thought
That slights this passion or condemns;
If thee fond fancy ever brought
From the proud margin of the Thames,
And Lambeth's venerable towers,
To humbler streams and greener bowers.

Digitized by Google

Yes they can make, who fail to find,
Short leisure even in busiest days;
Moments to cast a look behind,
And profit by those kindly rays
That through the clouds do sometimes steal,
And all the far-off past reveal.

Hence, while the imperial city's din
Beats frequent on thy satiate ear,
A pleased attention I may win
To agitations less severe,
That neither overwhelm nor cloy,
But fill the hollow vale with joy!

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

FAREWELL TO CHRISTMAS.

From New Christmas Carols, 1642.

Mark well my heavy doleful Tale.

To the tune of "The Lady's Fall."

MARK well my heavy doleful tale,
For Twelfth-day now is come,
And now I must no longer sing,
And say no words but mum;
For I perforce must take my leave
Of all my dainty cheer,
Plum-porridge, roast beef, and minced pies,
My strong ale and my beer.

Kind-hearted Christmas, now adieu,
For I with thee must part,
And for to take my leave of thee
Doth grieve me at the heart;

Digitized by Google

Thou wert an ancient housekeeper,
And mirth with meat didst keep,
But thou art going out of town,
Which makes me for to weep.

God knoweth whether I again
Thy merry face shall see,
Which to good-fellows and the poor
That was so frank and free.
Thou lovedst pastime with thy heart,
And eke good company;
Pray hold me up for fear I swoon,
For I am like to die.

Come, butler, fill a brimmer up
To cheer my fainting heart,
That to old Christmas I may drink
Before he doth depart;
And let each one that's in this room
With me likewise condole,
And for to cheer their spirits sad
Let each one drink a bowl.

And when the same it hath gone round
Then fall unto your cheer,
For you do know that Christmas time
It comes but once a year.

Digitized by Google

But this good draught which I have drunk
Hath comforted my heart,
For I was very fearful that
My stomach would depart.

Thanks to my master and my dame
That doth such cheer afford;
God bless them, that each Christmas they
May furnish thus their board.
My stomach having come to me,
I mean to have a bout,
Intending to eat most heartily;
Good friends, I do not flout.

Digitized by Google

This piece and the next are from New Christmas Carols, 1661.

Now Farewell, Good Christmas.

To the tune of "Bonny Sweet Robin."

NOW farewell, good Christmas,
Adieu and adieu,
I needs now must leave thee,
And look for a new;
For till thou returnest,
I linger in pain,
And I care not how quickly
Thou comest again.

But ere thou departest
I purpose to see
What merry good pastime
This day will show me;
For a king of the wassail
This night we must choose,
Or else the old customs
We carelessly lose.

Digitized by Google

The wassail well spiced
About shall go round,
Though it cost my good master
Best part of a pound:
The maid in the buttery
Stands ready to fill
Her nappy good liquor
With heart and good will.

And to welcome us kindly
Our master stands by,
And tells me in friendship
One tooth is a-dry.
Then let us accept it
As lovingly, friends;
And so for this twelfth-day
My carol here ends.

Digitized by Google

Christmas hath made an End.

To the tune of "Well a day."

CHRISTMAS hath made an end,
Welladay, welladay,
Which was my dearest friend,
More is the pity;
For with a heavy heart
Must I from thee depart,
To follow plough and cart
All the year after.

Lent is fast coming on,
Welladay, welladay,
That loves not any one,
More is the pity;
For I doubt both my cheeks
Will look thin, eating leeks;
Wise is he then that seeks
For a friend in a corner.

Digitized by Google

All our good cheer is gone,
Welladay, welladay,
And turned to a bone,
More is the pity.
In my good master's house
I shall eat no more souse,
Then give me one carouse,
Gentle, kind butler.

It grieves me to the heart,
Welladay, welladay,
From my friend to depart,
More is the pity.
Christmas, I mean, 'tis thee
That thus forsaketh me,
Yet till one hour I see
Will I be merry.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

NOTES.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

NOTES.

Page 1: "*In every place*," &c.—These lines are spoken by Salomee. For disbelieving that the Child had been born of a virgin, her hand was withered up; but on her repentance God sent an angel who bade her worship the Child and touch his clothes. She obeyed, and her hand was restored; whereupon she raised this hymn of praise.

Page 4: "*I sing of a maiden*."—This perfect little poem will be new to most readers. It has been passed over by the collectors.

Page 17: "*You shall well see that kingès three*," &c.—The names of the three kings were Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar. The first was old, with grey hair and a long beard: his offering was gold. Gaspar, who was young and beardless, brought frankincense; and Balthazar, who was of a swarthy complexion, offered myrrh. Gold was symbolical of kingship, frankincense of divinity, and myrrh of humanity. The bodies of the three kings were taken, about three hundred years after their death, by the Empress Helena to Constantinople; thence by Eustatius to Milan; afterwards by Renaldus the bishop to Cologne, or Collein. Hence they were commonly called the Three Kings of Collein. There is an old carol about the Three Kings. Wright, in his collection of "Songs and Carols" published by the Percy Society, has printed one version of it; but the text of the following copy (from *Notes and Queries*, 6th Series, vi. 505–7) is fuller and more accurate:—

Digitized by Google

" Now is Christmas y-come,
Father and Son together in one,
Holy Ghost us be on
In fere-a ;[1]
God send us a happy New Year-a !

I would you sing for, and I might,
Of a Child is fair in sight ;
His mother him bare this Yulès night
So still-a,
And as it was his will-a.

There came three kings from Galilee
Into Bethlem that fair citie,
To seek Him that e'er should be
By right-a
Lord and king and knight-a.

As they came forth with their off'ring,
They met with Herod that moody king
This tide-a,
And this to them he said-a.

' Of whence be ye, you kingès three ?'
' Of the East, as you may see,
To worship Him that e'er should be
By right-a
Lord and king and knight-a.'

' When you at this Child have be,
Come home again by me ;
Tell me the sight that you have see ;
I pray you,
Go you none other way-a.'

[1] In fere = in company.

Digitized by Google

They took their leave both old and young
Of Herod that moody king;
They went forth with their offering
By light-a,
The star that shone so bright-a.

Till they came into the place
There Jesu and his mother was;
Offered they up with great solace
In fere-a
Gold and 'cense and myrrh-a.

The Father of heaven an angel sent
To these three kings that made present
This tide-a,
And this to them he said-a:—

'My Lord have warned you every one
By Herod king you go not home,
For and you do he will you slone [1]
And 'stroy-a,
And hurt you wonderly-a.'

Forth they went these kingès three
Till they came home to their countrie;
Glad and blithe they were all three
Of the sight that they had see;
By dene-a [2]
The company was clean-a.

Kneel we now here a-down;
Pray we in good devotion
To the King of great renown,
Of grace-a
In heaven to have a place-a."

[1] Slay. [2] By dene = immediately.

Digitized by Google

(The last line of the penultimate stanza seems somewhat unintelligible.)

Page 19: "*Tyrle, tyrle, so merrily*," &c.—Compare a song in the Coventry Mysteries:—

> "As I rode out this endnes night
> Of three jolly shepherds I saw a sight,
> And all about their fold a star shone bright:
> They sang terli terlow,
> So merrily the shepherds their pipes can blow."

Page 21: "*This endnes night.*"—The MS. from which this piece is taken contains a large collection of church-services, hymns, carols, and songs,—with music. It formerly belonged to Joseph Ritson, who presented it to the British Museum. The collection deserves to be printed in full.

Page 25: "*As I sat under a sycamore tree.*"—This is a variation of the very common carol, "As I sat on a sunny bank."

Page 26: William Byrd, a celebrated musician, was born about 1545, and died in 1623. The reader will find an account of his works in Oliphant's Musa Madrigalesca. Probably Byrd wrote only the music for his collections.

Page 29: "*Joseph was an old man.*"—I do not feel at all sure that I have done right in dividing this carol into three parts. Perhaps it would have been better to print Part II. as a separate piece, and join Part III. to Part I. As regards the text of this carol no two copies are found to agree, and one is obliged to adopt an eclectic method. The alterations made by modern editors in deference to the mock-modesty of the day are singularly flat. Mr. Bramley, in "Christmas Carols New and Old," gives the following ridiculous rendering of the fourth and fifth stanzas:—

Digitized by Google

"Mary said to Joseph
With her sweet lips so mild,
Pluck those cherries, Joseph,
For to give to my Child.

O then replied Joseph,
With words so unkind,
I will pluck no cherries
For to give to thy Child."

Could anything be more pointless? Hone, in his Ancient Mysteries (p. 90), gives after the first stanza—

"When Joseph was married,
And his cousin Mary got,
Mary proved big with child,
By whom Joseph knew not."

After the penultimate stanza some copies add—

"And upon a Wednesday
My vow I will make,
And upon Good Friday
My death I will take."

Page 33: "*St. Stephen was a clerk.*"—We learn from Dr. Prior's "Ancient Danish Ballads" (I. 395) that the oldest account of the singular legend which is the subject of this carol "is in Vinc. Bellovacensis, from an author who lived about 1200. Two friends sat down to dinner in Bologna, and one bade the other to carve the cock, which he did, so that, as he said, not St. Peter or our Lord himself could put it together again. The cock sprang up, clapped his wings and crowed, scattering the sauce over the two friends, and rendering them lepers till the day of their death. The same miracle is related as having occurred to prove the innocence of persons falsely accused, and is found in the legends of Spain Brittany, Italy, and Slavonian

Digitized by Google

countries. How it came to be appropriated to St. Stephen does not appear."

Page 36: "*Remember, O thou man.*"—A different version of this carol is given in Mr. Thomas Hardy's "Under the Greenwood Tree."

Page 40: "*God rest you merry, gentlemen.*"—The comma, by a curious oversight, has been misplaced. It should stand before, not after, the word "merry."

Page 48: "*Nay, Nay, sweet Jesus said,*" &c.—I have ventured to end the carol with this stanza. In all the copies that I have seen an additional stanza follows—

"O then spoke the angel Gabriel,
Upon one good Saint Stephen,
Although you're but a maiden's child,
You are the King of heaven."

The conclusion is spoiled by the introduction of these mysterious lines, which have no connection with the context.

Page 55: "*Joys Seven.*"—There is an older carol of a similar sort, entitled, "Joyis Fyve."

Page 58: "*The Moon shines bright.*"—Robert Bell, in his "Songs of the Peasantry" (1857), gives a May-day song (which used to be sung at Hitchin), containing some of the stanzas found in this carol. Here is the song—

"Remember us poor Mayers all!
And thus do we begin
To lead our lives in righteous ways,
Or else we die in sin.

We have been rambling all the night
And almost all the day;
And now returned back again,
We have brought you a branch of May.

Digitized by Google

A branch of May we have brought you,
And at your door it stands;
It is but a sprout,
But it's well budded out
By the work of our Lord's hands.

The hedges and trees they are so green,
As green as any leek;
Our heavenly Father he watered them
With his heavenly dew so sweet:

The heavenly gates are open wide,
Our paths are beaten plain;
And if a man be not too far gone,
He may return again.

The life of man is but a span,
It flourishes like a flower;
We are here to-day and gone to-morrow,
And we are dead in an hour.

The moon shines bright and the stars give a light,
A little before it is day;
So God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May!"

Page 68: "*The contest of the Ivy and the Holly.*"—The two followning pieces are from Wright's "Songs and Carols," published by the Percy Society:—

"*Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah now sing we!*

Here comes holly that is so gent,
To please all men in his intent.
Hallelujah.

But Lord and Lady of this hall,
Whosoever against holly call,—
Hallelujah.

Digitized by Google

Whosoever against holly do cry,
In a lepe[1] shall he hang full high.
Hallelujah.

Whosoever against holly do sing,
He may weep and handès wring.
Hallelujah."

" Holly and ivy made a great party
Who should have the mastery
In lands where they go.

Then spake Holly, I am free and jolly,
I will have the mastery,
In lands where they go.

Then spake Ivy, I am loud and proud,
And I will have the mastery
In lands where they go.

Then spake Holly and set him down on his knee,
I pray thee, gentle Ivy, say me no villany,
In lands where they go."

There is a modern carol of *The Holly and the Ivy*, frequently printed during the last hundred years. I give it from a broadside printed in the last century by T. Bloomer of Birmingham :—

" The holly and the ivy
Now are both well grown :
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

Chorus.—The rising of the sun,
The running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

---

[1] A large basket.

Digitized by Google

The holly bears a blossom
As white as the lily flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas-day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

The holly and the ivy
Now are both well grown:
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown."

Page 71: "*Modryb Marya.*"—The figure of the noble-hearted vicar of Morwenstow stands out with striking picturesqueness. Had he been a border-minstrel in the old tumultuous days, he would surely have written many a ballad that the world would not willingly let die. His poems are few and unequal; the best are singularly precious.

Page 75: "*The shepherds went their hasty way.*"—Few great poets have written more execrably than Coleridge, when he is at his worst. His carol begins well; but nothing more

Digitized by Google

inappropriate could be conceived than the reference to "The maiden's love-confessing sigh," "War is a ruffian," &c. The carol was written in 1799, two years after the peerless Kubla Khan and the first part of Christabel.

Page 80: "*Masters, in this hall.*"—In Sedding's "Antient Christmas Carols" this carol is said to be translated from the French.

Page 103: "*Who can forget,*" &c.—These stanzas are taken from the speech of Mercy towards the close of "Christ's Victorie in Heaven," the first part of "Christ's Victorie and Triumph in Heaven, and Earth, over, and after Death," first published in 1610. The poem is full of striking and magnificent imagery, expressed in richly-glowing jewelled stanzas. Milton was a close student of Giles Fletcher.

Page 106: "*The Shepherds.*"—Henry Vaughan, called "the Silurist," from the fact that he was born among the Silures or people of South Wales, is incomparably the greatest of English devotional poets. The pieces that I have quoted, fine as they are, do not give the reader a just idea of his greatness. Whoever will study Silex Scintillans as it deserves to be studied, read it through and through again and again, cannot fail to be deeply impressed by the magical beauty of the diction, the perfect success with which the most difficult metrical effects are lightly produced, the imaginative splendour and subtlety. Vaughan was no less a born poet than Shelley or Keats or Coleridge. He was born in 1621, and died in 1695. The first part of Silex Scintillans was published in 1651; the complete collection in two parts appeared in 1655. "Olor Iscanus. A Collection of some select Poems and Translations. Formerly written by Henry Vaughan, Silurist," was published by the author's friends in 1651; it is far inferior to the volume

Digitized by Google

of sacred poems. Vaughan published nothing after 1655. Dr. Grosart has edited a complete edition of Vaughan's writings.

Page 111: "*New Prince, New Pomp.*"—A very quaint and tender little poem. Another piece, entitled "New Heaven, New War," is perhaps almost too quaint for modern readers; yet I venture to quote it in full:—

"Come to your heaven, you heavenly quires!
Earth hath the heaven of your desires;
Remove your dwelling to your God,
A stall is now his best abode;
Sith men their homage do deny,
Come, angels, all their fault supply.

His chilling cold doth heat require,
Come, seraphims, in lieu of fire;
This little ark no cover hath,
Let cherubs' wings his body swathe;
Come, Raphael, this babe must eat,
Provide our little Toby meat.

Let Gabriel be now his groom,
That first took up his earthly room;
Let Michael stand in his defence,
Whom love hath linked to feeble sense;
Let Graces rock when he doth cry,
And angels sing his lullaby.

The same you saw in heavenly seat
Is he that now sucks Mary's teat;
Agnize your King a mortal wight,
His borrowed weed lets not your sight;
Come kiss the manger where he lies,
That is your bliss above the skies.

Digitized by Google

This little Babe so few days old
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shots are babish cries;
His arrows, looks of weeping eyes;
His martial ensigns, cold and need;
And feeble flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, hay-stalks his stakes;
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that he hath pight;
Within his crib is surest ward,
This little Babe will be thy guard;
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this Heavenly Boy."

I must also find room for the poem, entitled "The Burning Babe":—

"As I in hoary winter's night stood shivering in the snow,
Surprised I was with sudden heat which made my heart to glow;
And lifting up a fearful eye to view what fire was near,
A pretty babe all burning bright did in the air appear,

Digitized by Google

Who scorchèd with excessive heat such floods of tears did shed,
As though his floods should quench his flames which with his tears were fed.
Alas! quoth he, but newly born in fiery heats I fry,
Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel my fire but I!
My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel wounding thorns;
Love is the fire and sighs the smoke, the ashes shame and scorns;
The fuel Justice layeth on, and Mercy blows the coals;
The metal in this furnace wrought are men's defilèd souls;
For which, as now on fire I am, to work them to their good,
So will I melt into a bath to wash them in my blood.
With that he vanish'd out of sight and swiftly shrunk away,
And straight I callèd unto mind that it was Christmas Day."

Ben Jonson told Drummond of Hawthornden that he would have been content to destroy many of his own writings if he had written "The Burning Babe."

Southwell's longest poem, "St. Peter's Complaint," is smoothly written, but tedious. After three years' close imprisonment in the Tower, Southwell was executed at Tyburn, on February 22, 1594–5, at the age of thirty-four or thirty-five. Though he was found guilty of treasonable practices, his sole offence was that he had been a zealous priest of the Church of Rome. He appears to have been a man of noble character, humble and gentle and intrepid. [In the last line of the penultimate stanza of "New Prince, New Pomp," the word *praisèd* should be *prizèd*. I quoted from an inaccurate reprint.]

Page 113: "*All after pleasures as I rid one day.*"—These lines are very characteristic of the polished high-born scholar, who, after strenuous attempts to gain preferment at court, abandoned at length the fruitless quest and found content in the retirement of a country vicarage. Herbert is a soothing writer; his Muse took an equable steady flight, never soaring into the

Digitized by Google

"highest heaven of invention," but yet keeping at a respectable distance from the ground. He numbers at least ten readers for Vaughan's one,—a fact which is not at all surprising.

Page 115: "*Immortal Babe*," &c.—From "The Shaking of the Olive Tree," 1660. Joseph Hall, Bishop of Exeter, was born in 1574, and died on 8th September 1656. He was an eloquent, liberal-minded, witty, and bold divine. He was also one of our earliest English satirists.

Page 116: "*The Shepherd's Song.*"—This piece is subscribed "E. B." in the original editions (1600 and 1614) of "England's Helicon." Other pieces in that delightful collection bear the name "Edmund Bolton" in full; so doubtless we are right in giving the present poem to Bolton. In the early editions the two last lines are printed thus:—

> "In *David's* Cittie dooth this Sunne appeare:
> Clouded in flesh, yet Sheepheards sit we heere."

My punctuation seems preferable. Bolton is known as a poet only from his contributions to "England's Helicon."

Page 120: "*A Hymn of the Nativity.*"—This poem strikingly exhibits Crashaw's power and weakness. Thrice-refined golden speech, a subtle sense of melody, fervid richness of imagination,—these great gifts were marred by a constant indulgence in violent conceits, by diffuseness, and occasionally by studied harshness of phrase and rhythm. The second piece, "Hymn for the Epiphany," offends so outrageously by ill-timed conceits, that I have only printed the first part of it, although there are many fine lines in the latter part. Crashaw was driven from Cambridge at the time of the Civil Wars; escaped to France, embraced the Catholic faith, and afterwards became secretary to Cardinal Palotta at Rome. He died at Loretto in 1650 (at

Digitized by Google

the age of thirty-seven); and it has been supposed that he was poisoned. His poems were published in 1646 under the title of "Steps to the Temple," and "The Delights of the Muses."

Page 128: "*Run, shepherds, run,*" &c.—Too often in reading Drummond of Hawthornden we feel that the poet is giving us "words, words, words." His work is always polished and refined, but seldom throbs with life. The two sonnets I have quoted are graceful but (it must be confessed) commonplace. There is an elaborate life of Drummond (who died in 1649) by Professor Masson.

Page 130: "*Of the Epiphany.*"—Sir John Beaumont was an elder brother of Francis Beaumont the dramatist. Drayton, in his Epistle to Henry Reynolds, couples the brothers together in terms of genial praise:—

> "Then the two Beaumonts and my Browne arose,
> My dear companions whom I freely chose
> My bosom friends; and in their several ways
> Rightly born poets, and in these last days
> Men of much note and no less nobler parts,
> Such as have freely told to me their hearts,
> As I have mine to them."

John Beaumont was created a baronet in 1626 and died in 1628, ætat. 44. He is the author of "Bosworth Field and other Poems" (posthumously printed in 1629), which have been praised by Wordsworth for their "spirit, elegance, and harmony."

Page 132: "*Where is this blessed Babe?*"—Jeremy Taylor, whose prose is one of the glories of English literature, handles his lyre awkwardly. At starting we are confronted with a false rhyme; and as we proceed we feel that the versification is want-

Digitized by Google

ing in ease and fluency. What a change when we turn to the perfect prose-periods of the funeral sermon on the Countess of Carbery!

Page 136: "*And they laid him in a manger.*"—Sir Edward Sherburne came of an ancient Lancashire family; he was born in 1616, and is supposed to have died in 1702. He made a translation of Manilius and of some plays of Seneca. When the Civil Wars broke out he sided with the King's party and lost his fortune. He was knighted by Charles the Second.

Page 140: "*Rejoice, rejoice, with heart and voice.*"—The author, Francis Kinwelmersh, was a member of Gray's Inn. He had a brother Antony, who also wrote verse.

Page 143: "*Sleep, baby, sleep.*"—This *Christmas Lullaby* has not been printed before.

Page 145: "*A Rocking Hymn.*"—Wither's besetting fault is his prolixity; he seldom knew when to stop. It is tedious to read through the voluminous list of his forgotten writings, but to read the works themselves is a Herculean task. Yet every student of English poetry knows that some of Wither's songs are miracles of sweetness, and that even in his most arid wastes of prose and verse there are green oases. It is much to be wished that some capable scholar would make an anthology from Wither. From the cradle hymn I ventured to omit the second stanza, which ran thus:—

"Though thy conception was in sin,
A sacred bathing thou hast had;
And though thy birth unclean hath bin,
A blameless babe thou now art made:
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep."

Digitized by Google

The piece would be improved by making a few more omissions. Not so with the carol which follows, written in Wither's blithest strain, perfect from first to last.

Page 151: "*Now poor men to the justices.*"—The old poet Gascoigne tells us that tenants used to take their landlords presents on Quarter-Day:

"And when the tenants come to pay their quarter's rent,
They bring some fowl at Midsummer, a dish of fish in Lent;
At Christmas a capon, at Michaelmas a goose;
And somewhat else at New-Year's tide, *for fear their lease flie loose.*"

Page 152: "*The wild mare in is bringing.*"—The game of "shoeing the wild mare." A youth was chosen to be the wild mare: he was allowed a start, and the other players then pursued him with the object of shoeing him. From Strutt's meagre description it appears to have been a poor sport. I suppose that in the attempt to escape from the pursuers the wild mare kicked out lustily, upsetting chairs and tables. I don't know what game is meant in the previous line, "The boys are come to *catch the owls.*" In the next stanza "noddy" is an old game of cards resembling cribbage. Of the game of "Rowland-ho" I can find no particulars.

Page 154: "*With the last year's brand,*" &c.—When a piece of last year's Christmas log was preserved, the household reckoned itself secure from the assaults of hobgoblins, as Herrick elsewhere relates:—

"Kindle the Christmas brand, and then
Till sunset let it burn;
Which quenched, then lay it up again
Till Christmas next return.

Digitized by Google

Part must be kept wherewith to teend
The Christmas log next year;
And where 'tis safely kept, the fiend
Can do no mischief there."

Page 156: "*Wassail the trees.*"—This custom was kept up till the end of the last century. Brand relates that in 1790 a Cornish man informed him it was the custom for the Devonshire people on the eve of Twelfth Day to go after supper into the orchard with a large milk-pan full of cyder with roasted apples in it. Each person took what was called a clayen cup, *i.e.* an earthenware cup full of cyder, and standing under each of the more fruitful trees, sung—

"Health to thee, good apple-tree,
Well to bear, pocket-fulls, hat-fulls,
Peck-fulls, bushel-bag-fulls."

After drinking part of the contents of the cup, he threw the rest, with the fragments of the roasted apples, at the trees, amid the shouting of the company. Another song sung on such occasions was:—

"Here's to thee, old apple-tree,
Whence thou may'st bud, and whence thou may'st blow,
And whence thou may'st bear apples enow!
Hats full! caps full!
Bushel-bushel-sacks full,
And my pockets full, too, huzza!"

It is supposed that the custom was a relic of the sacrifice to Pomona.

Page 163: "*March beer.*"—Harrison, in his "Description of England," ii. 6, says:—"The beer that is used at noblemen's tables in their fixed and standing houses is commonly of a year old, or peradventure of two years' tunning or more, but this is

Digitized by Google

not general. *It is also brewed in March, and therefore called March beer;* but for the household it is usually not under a month's age, each one coveting to have the same stale as he may, so that it be not sour, and his bread as new as possible, so that it be not hot."

Page 168: "*O you merry, merry souls.*"—These lively verses, with some additions and alterations, are also found in an undated collection of songs entitled "The Hop Garland."—Last year the enterprising publishers, Messrs. Field & Tuer, issued a reprint of "Round about the Coal Fire."

Page 170: "*Caput apri defero.*"—There is still another Boar's-head Carol, in addition to those in pp. 170-2. Ritson first printed it (from Add. MS. 5665, the valuable folio which he presented to the British Museum):—

"Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Tidings good I think to tell.
The boar's head that we bring here
Betokeneth a prince without peer,
Is born this day to buy us dear,
Nowell.

A boar is a sovran beast,
And acceptable in every feast,
So mote this lord be to most and least,
Nowell.

This boar's head we bring with song,
In worship of him that thus sprung
Of a virgin to redress all wrong,
Nowell."

Page 173: "*May both with manchet stand replete.*"—*Manchet* was fine wheaten bread.

Digitized by Google

Page 176: "*A jolly wassail bowl.*"—The undated black-letter "New Christmas Carols," from which this piece is taken, is bound up with three other collections of Christmas verses. The volume, which is in the Bodleian Library, formerly belonged to Antony-à-Wood. Each tract numbers only a few 12mo pages. In the same little volume is a curious prose-tract on the Arraignment of Christmas.

Page 183: "*Here we come a whistling.*"—Another correspondent of *Notes and Queries* mentions that at Harrington in Worcestershire it was customary for children on St. Thomas's Day (December 21) to go round the village begging for apples, and singing—

"Wassail, wassail through the town,
If you've got any apples throw them down;
Up with the stocking and down with the shoe,
If you've got no apples money will do;
The jug is white and the ale is brown,
This is the best house in the town."

An Oxfordshire lady tells me that at her house near Witney the village children sing on Christmas-eve—

"Holly and ivy, tickle my toe,
Give me a red apple and let me go;
Give me another for my little brother,
And I'll go home to my father and my mother."

A writer in *Current Notes* for January 1856 gives the following verses:—

"I wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year,
A pocket full of money,
And a cellar full of beer,
And a good fat pig to serve you all the year.

Digitized by Google

Ladies and gentlemen, sat by the fire,
Pity we poor boys out in the mire."

In Oxfordshire the children sing the first four lines of this piece, and then proceed :—

"All the roads are very dirty,
My boots are very thin;
I've got a little pocket,
Will you put a penny in?"

Page 190: "*At hot cockles beside.*"—In the game of *hot cockles* one of the players, after being blindfolded, laid his head in another's lap. The rest proceeded in turn to strike the blindfolded victim, until he was released from his position by guessing the name of the person who struck him. In Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes" (ed. 1801, p. 293) there is an illustration of this ancient sport from a fifteenth-century illuminated MS.

Page 214: "*Provide for Christmas.*"—*Poor Robin's Almanac*, from which this and other pieces are taken, began in 1663 and ended in 1776. No public or private library, so far as I know, possesses a complete set of these very interesting almanacs. It has been stated that Robert Herrick was the original projector of the series, but I believe there is no authority for the statement. "Poor Robin" was the *nom de plume* of Robert Winstanley of Saffron Walden, a list of whose publications is given by Mr. H. Eckroyd Smith in *Notes and Queries*, ser. vi. vol. 7, pp. 321–3. More information about Poor Robin is very much needed.

Page 225: "*Right wantonly a mumming.*"—Christmas mumming still continues in many parts of the country, but it is only the shadow of its former self. A few years ago it was kept up at Chiswick. Robert Bell (in "Songs of the Peasantry") gives an

Digitized by Google

amusing Mummer's Song that used to be sung in the neighbourhood of Richmond, Yorkshire, by a rustic actor dressed as an old horse. One verse in a Somersetshire Mummer's song is very droll :—

"Here comes I, liddle man Jan,
With my zword in my hand!
If you don't all do
As you be told by I,
I'll zend you all to York
For to make apple-pie."

My fair Oxfordshire correspondent writes:—"The mummers still go round to the farm-houses at home, but their glory has departed. I can remember being immensely pleased with their acting, and remember one little bit they said which always took my fancy. One fellow would shout out, 'Come in, Jack Spinner!' Then in came Jack Spinner, saying :—

'Yer comes I as an't bin it,
We my gret yead and little wit.'

(*i.e.* Here come I that haven't been yet
With my great head and little wit.)"

In "Round about our Coal Fire" we read :—"Then comes Mumming or Masquerading, when the squire's wardrobe is ransacked for dresses of all kinds, and the coal-hole searched around, or corks burnt to black the faces of the fair or make deputy-moustaches; and every one in the family except the squire himself must be transformed from what they were."

Page 227 : *Of ash-heaps, in the which ye use,*" &c.—William Browne (in one of his sonnets to Celia) alludes to this curious mode of divination :—

Digitized by Google

"If, forced by our sighs, the flame shall fly
Of our kind love and get within thy rind,
Be wary, gentle Bay, and shriek not high
When thou dost such unusual fervour find:
Suppress the fire, for, should it take thy leaves,
Their crackling would betray us and thy glory."
Works, ed. Hazlitt, ii. 288.

[In line 13, for "Quite *though*" read "Quite *through*."]

Page 229: "*Where bean's the king of the sport here.*"—A bean and pea were enclosed in the Twelfth-cake. When the cake was divided, he who got the slice containing the bean was king of the feast, and the girl to whose lot the pea fell was queen. This Twelfth-tide custom existed in France as early as the thirteenth century. See some interesting remarks in the preface to Sandys' Christmas Carols (pp. lxxvi.–ix.)

Page 230: "*With gentle lambs-wool.*"—*Lambs-wool* consisted of strong nappy ale, in which roasted crab-apples were pressed. Nares conjectures that the name was derived from the liquor's "smoothness and softness, resembling the wool of lambs."

Page 231: "*Christmas in the Olden Time.*"—It may not be amiss here to quote a lengthy passage, relating to Christmas observances, from the fourth book of Barnabe Googe's "Popish Kingdom," (1570), a translation of Thomas Kirchmaier's [Naogeorgus'] "Regnum Papisticum" (1553). The writer is describing the customs observed in Germany; but in many respects the description would be equally applicable to English society in the middle of the sixteenth century:—

"Three weeks before the day whereon was born the Lord of grace,
And on the Thursday boys and girls do run in every place,
And bounce and beat at every door, with blows and lusty snaps
And cry, the advent of the Lord, not born as yet perhaps:

Digitized by Google

And wishing to the neighbours all, that in the houses dwell,
A happy year, and everything to spring and prosper well:
Here have they pears and plums, and pence, each man gives willingly,
For these three nights are always thought unfortunate to be:
Wherein they are afraid of sprites and cankered witches' spite,
And dreadful devils black and grim, that then have chiefest might.
In these same days young wanton girls that meet for marriage be,
Do search to know the names of them that shall their husbands be.
Four onions, five, or eight, they take, and make in every one
Such names as they do fancy most and best do think upon.
Thus near the chimney then they set, and that same onion than
The first doth sprout doth surely bear the name of their good man.
Their husband's nature eke they seek to know and all his guise;
When as the sun hath hid himself, and left the starry skies,
Unto some woodstack do they go, and while they there do stand,
Each one draws out a faggot stick, the next that comes to hand,
Which if it straight and even be, and have no knots at all,
A gentle husband then they think shall surely to them fall.
But if it foul and crooked be, and knotty here and there,
A crabbed churlish husband then they earnestly do fear.
These things the wicked Papists bear, and suffer willingly,
Because they neither do the end, nor fruits of faith espie:
And rather had the people should obey their foolish lust,
Than truly God to know, and in him here alone to trust.
Then comes the day wherein the Lord did bring his birth to pass,
Whereas at midnight up they rise, and every man to Mass.

Digitized by Google

This time so holy counted is, that divers earnestly
Do think the waters all to wine are changed suddenly:
In that same hour that Christ himself was born, and came to light,
And unto water straight again transformed and altered quite.
There are beside that mindfully the money still do watch,
That first to altar comes, which then they privily do snatch.
The priests lest other should it have takes oft the same away,
Whereby they think throughout the year to have good luck in play,
And not to lose: then straight at game till daylight do they strive,
To make some present proof how well their hallowed pence will thrive.
Three masses every priest doth sing upon that solemn day,
With offerings unto every one, that so the more may play.
This done, a wooden child in clouts is on the altar set,
About the which both boys and girls do dance and trimly jet,
And carols sing in praise of Christ, and for to help them here,
The organs answer every verse, with sweet and solemn cheer.
The priests do roar aloud, and round about the parents stand,
To see the sport, and with their voice do help them and their hand.
Thus wont the Coribants perhaps upon the mountain Ide,
The crying noise of Jupiter new born with song to hide,
To dance about him round, and on their brazen pans to beat,
Lest that his father finding him, should him destroy and eat.
Then followeth Saint Stephen's Day, whereon doth every man
His horses jaunt and course abroad, as swiftly as he can.
Until they do extremely sweat, and then they let them blood,
For this being done upon this day, they say doth do them good,

Digitized by Google

And keeps them from all maladies and sickness through the year,
As if that Stephen any time took charge of horses here.
Next John the son of Zebedee hath his appointed day,
Who once by cruel tyrant's will constrained was, they say,
Strong poison up to drink, therefore the Papists do believe,
That whoso puts their trust in him, no poison them can grieve.
The wine beside that hallowed is, in worship of his name,
The priests do give the people that bring money for the same.
And after with the selfsame wine are little manchets made,
Against the boisterous winter storms, and sundry such like trade;
The men upon this solemn day do take this holy wine,
To make them strong, so do the maids to make them fair and fine.
Then comes the day that calls to mind the cruel Herod's strife,
Who seeking Christ to kill, the King of everlasting life,
Destroyed the infants young, a beast unmerciless,
And put to death all such as were of two years age or less.
To them the sinful wretches cry, and earnestly do pray
To get them pardon for their faults, and wipe their sins away.
The parents when this day appears, do beat their children all
(Though nothing they deserve), and servants all to beating fall.
And monks do whip each other well, or else their Prior great,
Or Abbot mad, doth take in hand their breeches all to beat
In worship of these Innocents, or rather as we see,
In honour of the cursed king that did this cruelty.
The next to this is New Year's Day, whereon to every friend
They costly presents in do bring and New Year's gifts do send.
These gifts the husband gives his wife and father eke the child,
And master on his men bestows the like, with favour mild,

Digitized by Google

And good beginning of the year they wish and wish again,
According to the ancient guise of heathen people vain.
These eight days no man doth require his debts of any man,
Their tables do they furnish out with all the meat they can:
With marchpanes, tarts, and custards great they drink with staring eyes,
They rout and revel, feed and feast as merry all as pies,
As if they should at the entrance of this New Year have to die,
Yet would they have their bellies full and ancient friends ally.
The wise men's day here followeth, who out from Persia far,
Brought gifts and presents unto Christ, conducted by a star.
The Papists do believe that these were kings, and so them call,
And do affirm that of the same there were but three in all.
Here sundry friends together come, and meet in company,
And make a king amongst themselves by voice or destiny;
Who after princely guise appoints his officers alway,
Then unto feasting do they go, and long time after play:
Upon their boards in order thick the dainty dishes stand,
Till that their purses empty be and creditors at hand.
Their children herein follow them, and choosing princes here,
With pomp and great solemnity, they meet and make good cheer
With money either got by stealth, or of their parents eft,
That so they may be trained to know both riot here and theft.
Then also every householder to his ability,
Doth make a mighty cake, that may suffice his company:
Herein a penny doth he put, before it come to fire,
This he divides according as his household doth require;
And every piece distributeth, as round about they stand,
Which in their names unto the poor is given out of hand;
But whoso chanceth on the piece wherein the money lies
Is counted king amongst them all, and is with shouts and cries

Digitized by Google

Exalted to the heavens up, who taking chalk in hand,
Doth make a cross on every beam and rafters as they stand :
Great force and power have these against all injuries and harms
Of cursed devils, sprites and bugs, of conjurings and charms.
So much this king can do, so much the crosses bring to pass,
Made by some servant, maid or child, or by some foolish ass.
Twice six nights then from Christmas they do count with diligence,
Wherein each master in his house doth burn up frankincense :
And on the table sets a loaf, when night approacheth near,
Before the coals, and frankincense to be perfumed there :
First bowing down his head he stands, and nose and ears and eyes,
He smokes and with his mouth receive[s] the fume that doth arise :
Whom followeth straight his wife, and doth the same full solemnly,
And of their children every one, and all their family :
Which doth preserve they say their teeth, and nose, and eyes, and ear,
From every kind of malady, and sickness all the year.
When every one received hath this odour great and small,
Then one takes up the pan with coals, and frankincense and all.
Another takes the loaf, whom all the rest do follow here,
And round about the house they go, with torch or taper clear,
That neither bread nor meat do want, nor witch with dreadful charm
Have power to hurt their children, or to do their cattle harm.
There are that three nights only do perform this foolish gear,
To this intent, and think themselves in safety all the year.
To Christ dare none commit himself. And in these days beside
They judge what weather all the year shall happen and betide :

Digitized by Google

Ascribing to each day a month, and at this present time
The youth in every place do flock, and, all appareled fine,
With pipers through the streets they run, and sing at every door
In commendation of the man rewarded well therefore,
Which on themselves they do bestow, or on the church, as tho'
The people were not plagued with rogues and begging friars enow.
There cities are where boys and girls together still do run,
About the street with like, as soon as night begins to come,
And bring abroad their wassail bowls, who well rewarded be
With cakes and cheese and great good cheer and money plenteously.

Page 239 : "*Mark well my heavy doleful tale.*"—Christmas festivities were not wholly ended on Twelfth day. The 7th of January, Distaff day (otherwise called Rock day), was given up partly to business and partly to play, as Herrick tells us in the following dainty poem (two lines of which I am forced to omit) :—

"Partly work and partly play
Ye must on Saint Distaff's day,
From the plough soon free your team,
Then come home and fodder them.
If the maids a-spinning go,
Burn the flax and fire the tow.

. . . . .
. . . . .

Bring in pails of water then,
Let the maids bewash the men.
Give Saint Distaff all the right,
Then bid Christmas sport good night;
And next morrow, every one
To his own vocation."

Digitized by Google

On Candlemas day, the 2nd of February, the holly and ivy were taken down, and all traces of Christmas disappeared, as Herrick tells us in his Ceremonies for Candlemas Eve. *Lector benevole, vale.*

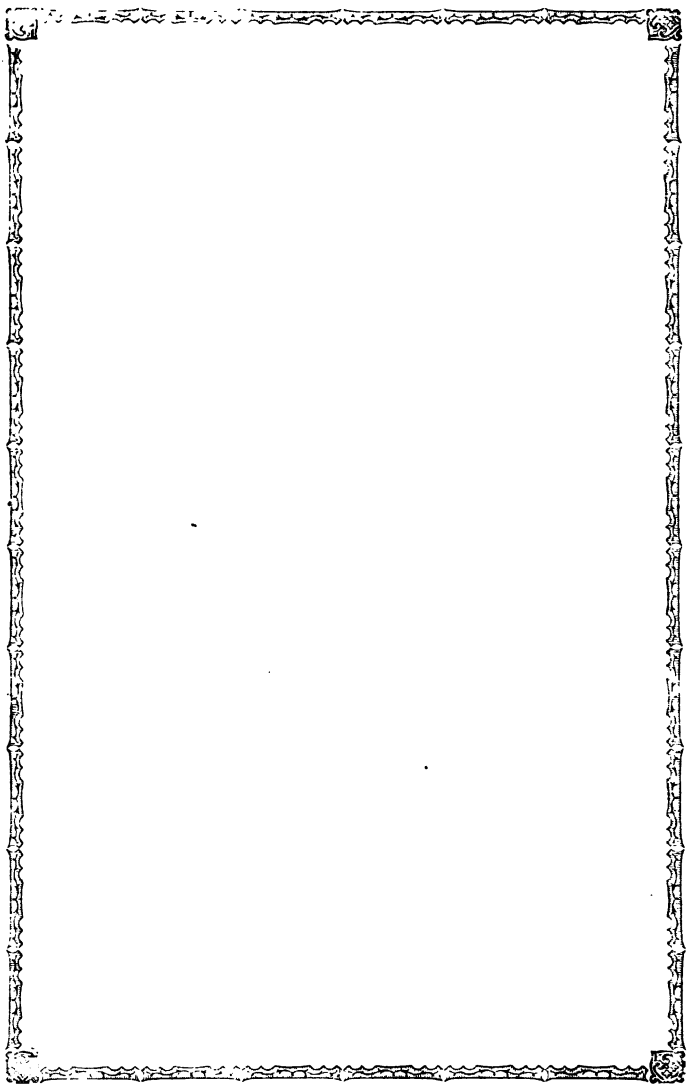
Yule's come and Yule's gane,
And we have feasted weel;
Sae Jock maun to his flail again,
And Jenny to her wheel.

FINIS.

Digitized by Google

Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & CO.
Edinburgh and London

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

FEBRUARY 1885.

PUBLICATIONS

OF

JOHN C. NIMMO,

14 KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND,

LONDON, W.C.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

PROSPECTUS.

The Elizabethan Dramatists.

Post 8vo, cloth. Published price, 7s. 6d. net per volume.

NOTE.—The type will be distributed after each work is printed, the impression of which will be four hundred copies, post 8vo, and one hundred and twenty large fine-paper copies, medium 8vo, which will be numbered.

To realise the supremacy of Shakespeare we must be acquainted with the writings of his contemporaries. Such masterpieces as *Dr. Faustus*, the *Duchess of Malfi*, and the *Maid's Tragedy* are of the highest value in preparing the student to appreciate the unique power of *Lear* and *Macbeth* and *Othello*.

But putting aside Shakespearean considerations, it may be justly said that there is no study more fascinating to thoughtful men than the study of the Elizabethan Dramatists. Their works were largely planned; and there is the stamp of sincerity in every page.

That there is a great and growing interest in our Old Dramatists among educated men is undeniable; but, strange to say, the works of some of the chief dramatists are unprocurable.

The noble contributions made to the English drama by Middleton and Shirley are known only to the few; the books have long been out of print.

Library editions of Beaumont and Fletcher, Marlowe, Massinger, and others are greatly needed. The quartos of Ben Jonson's plays have never been carefully collated. It is barely a year ago since Mr. A. H. BULLEN discovered (and printed for private circulation) a tragic masterpiece by Fletcher and Massinger, and a sprightly comedy by Shirley, which were lying, in MS., unnoticed in the British Museum.

This newly-edited Edition will begin with Shakespeare's greatest predecessor, *Christopher Marlowe*, in three volumes.

An edition of Middleton will follow; and Middleton will be succeeded by Shirley.

For Beaumont and Fletcher much time and labour will be required; but the Editor has already commenced the arduous task, and will give the closest attention to the question, "How far was Massinger concerned in the authorship of plays attributed to *Beaumont and Fletcher*?"

The remaining dramatists of this *Period* will follow in due order.

One of the chief features of this New Edition of the Elizabethan Dramatists, besides the handsome and handy size of the volumes, will be the fact that *each Work will be carefully edited, and new notes given throughout.*

Digitized by Google

The Elizabethan Dramatists.

The Works of Christopher Marlowe.

Edited by A. H. BULLEN, B.A.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

Post 8vo, cloth. Published price, 7s. 6d. net per volume.

[*Ready.*

NOTE.—This is the first instalment towards a collective edition of the Dramatists who lived about the time of Shakespeare. The Edition is limited to Four Hundred copies, post 8vo, and One Hundred and Twenty large fine paper copies, medium 8vo.

SOME PRESS NOTICES.

Athenæum.

"Mr. Bullen's edition deserves warm recognition. It is intelligent, scholarly, adequate. His preface is judicious. The elegant edition of the dramatists of which these volumes are the first is likely to stand high in public estimation. . . . Middleton, who is to come next, might have been taken first, as he is quite out of reach. The completion of the series will be a boon to bibliographers and scholars alike."

Saturday Review.

"Mr. Bullen has discharged his task as editor in all important points satisfactorily. Marlowe needs no irrelevant partisanship, no 'zeal of the devil's house,' to support his greatness. . . . Mr. Bullen's introduction is well informed and well written, and his notes are well chosen and sufficient. . . . We hope it may be his good fortune to give and ours to receive every dramatist, from Peele to Shirley, in this handsome, convenient, and well-edited form."

The Academy.

"Mr. Bullen is known to all those interested in such things as an authority on most matters connected with old plays. His reading in them is extensive and peculiar. We are not surprised, therefore, to find these volumes well edited throughout. They are not over-burdened with notes. Where explanations are necessary, they are given in as terse a form as possible, without too much parade of parallel passages; and no difficulty, so far as we have seen, is passed over. . . . Mr. Bullen supplies an elaborate Introduction, extending over eighty pages, and we are glad to see he has printed in an appendix Hore's fine play of the 'Death of Marlowe.'"

Illustrated London News.

"It is, perhaps, a bold venture on the part of the publisher, or would be if he had chosen an editor less competent than Mr. A. H. Bullen. The series begins with the works of Marlowe, whose genius, considering when he worked and how, fills the reader with wonder. His power was felt by Shakespeare, and felt also by Goethe; and Mr. Bullen is not, perhaps, a rash prophet in saying that, 'so long as high tragedy continues to have interest for men, Time shall lay no hands on the works of Christopher Marlowe!'"

Digitized by Google

PRESS NOTICES OF "MARLOWE"—continued.

Scotsman.

"Never in the history of the world has a period been marked by so much of literary power and excellence as the Elizabethan period; and never have the difficulties in the way of literature seemed to be greater. The three volumes which Mr. Nimmo has issued now may be regarded as earnests of more to come, and as proofs of the excellence which will mark this edition of the Elizabethan Dramatists as essentially the best that has been published. Mr. Bullen is a competent editor in every respect."

Pall Mall Gazette.

"That Shakespeare learned from Marlowe a portion of the secret of his marvellous versification is now accepted, as is the fact that in his 'Edward II.' Marlowe came nearer Shakespeare than did any tragedian of later date, such as Webster, Chapman, or Ben Jonson. . . . Marlowe has indeed passed the age of simple eulogy, and has reached that of comment. The task set before him by Mr. Bullen is that of supplying a text which shall be as clear and intelligible as the conditions under which plays were printed in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries render possible. In this he has been successful. . . . If the series is continued as it is begun, by one of the most careful editors, this set of the English Dramatists will be a coveted literary possession."

The Elizabethan Dramatists.

The Works of Thomas Middleton.

Edited by A. H. BULLEN, B.A.

In Eight Volumes, post 8vo.

First Four Volumes ready in March.

Dyce's Edition of Middleton, published in 1840, has been out of print for many years, and is now difficult to procure. The need of a new edition has been keenly felt. Middleton had not the sustained tragic power of Webster or Ford; but in single scenes, when his work is at its highest, he is surpassed only by Shakespeare.

His romantic comedies display a freedom of fancy that belongs to the "brightest heaven of invention;" and his comedies of intrigue are always lively and attractive. No student of the English Drama can afford to neglect the works of Thomas Middleton.

NOTE.—*The above is uniform with the Works of Marlowe, both in price and number of copies printed of both small and large paper editions.*

Digitized by Google

"New Series of Historical Memoirs."

Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson,

GOVERNOR OF NOTTINGHAM.

By his Widow, LUCY.

Edited from the Original Manuscript by the Rev. JULIUS HUTCHINSON.

To which are added the LETTERS OF COLONEL HUTCHINSON, and other Papers.

Revised, with Additional Notes, by C. H. FIRTH, M.A.

With Numerous Portraits, newly etched, of eminent personages.

In Two Volumes, fine paper, medium 8vo, and handsome binding, 42s.

NOTE.—Only 500 copies are being printed, 300 for England and 200 for America. Type distributed. [*Ready in March.*

To understand the history of any period, it must be studied not only in the records of public events, but also in the daily lives of individuals.

Of the many Memoirs and Autobiographies which illustrate the Civil Wars of the seventeenth century, none is more popular or entertaining than the "Life of Colonel Hutchinson." But though these Memoirs have passed through many editions, and their value universally admitted, they have not yet been edited with the care and labour they deserve.

In the earlier editions the irregular and unfamiliar spelling of the original renders the book difficult for the general reader to enjoy. In the later ones the text has been modernised with more freedom than fidelity. In the present edition the spelling alone will be modernised, whilst the phraseology and grammatical peculiarities of the original will be carefully preserved.

The most valuable of the annotations of the Rev. Julius Hutchinson will be retained, and a large number of new explanatory and illustrative notes will be added. Letters written by Colonel Hutchinson during his government of Nottingham, and other documents of interest, will be for the first time collected. A full and accurate index to the Memoirs will complete the work.

A number of etchings from the portraits of persons of whom mention is made in the text will help to render this a worthy edition of an English classic.

---

14 King William Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Digitized by Google

Old Times.

A PICTURE OF SOCIAL LIFE AT THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Collected and Illustrated from the Satirical and other Sketches of the Day.

By JOHN ASHTON,

Author of "Social Life in the Reign of Queen Anne."

One Volume, fine paper, medium 8vo, handsome binding, Eighty Illustrations, price 21s.

NOTE.—Sixty copies will be printed on fine laid imperial 8vo paper, with *an extra* 12 *plates*, not so suitable for the ordinary edition.

[*Ready in March.*

This book is a compendium of the Social Life in England at the end of the last century, corresponding with Mr. Ashton's "Social Life in the Reign of Queen Anne."

Avoiding history, except in so far as to make the work intelligible, it deals purely with the daily life of our great-grandfathers. Nothing is taken from diaries or lives of the upper classes; it aims solely to give a fair account of the life of the majority of people then living, or, as we now term it, of the middle class. This could best be done by taking the daily notices in the press, which would, naturally, be a perfect record of each passing folly of fashion, or even of the markets; so that, by this means, we get a glimpse of the inner life of that time, unattainable by any other method.

"The Times," which commenced 1st January 1788, is taken by preference, but when that authority is unavailing, other contemporaneous newspapers have been consulted.

Profusely illustrated from the satirical and other sketches of the day, it forms a volume of reliable authority, such as, up to the present time, has been looked for in vain.

The work will contain some eighty full-page illustrations.

---

14 King William Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Digitized by Google

Uniform with "Characters of La Bruyère" and a "Handbook of Gastronomy."

Robin Hood.

A COLLECTION OF ALL THE ANCIENT POEMS, SONGS, AND BALLADS now extant, relative to that celebrated English Outlaw;

To which are prefixed Historical Anecdotes of his Life,

By JOSEPH RITSON.

Illustrated with Seventy-Four Wood Engravings, by the celebrated THOMAS BEWICK.

Also Six Original Drawings, painted by A. H. TOURRIER and etched by an eminent French Etcher.

8vo, half parchment, gilt top, 42s.

NOTE.—300 copies printed, and each numbered. Type distributed. Also sixty copies on fine imperial paper, with etchings in two states. Each copy numbered. [*Ready in March.*

This edition of "ROBIN HOOD" is printed from that published in 1832, which was carefully edited and printed from Mr. RITSON'S own annotated edition of 1795.

The Original Wood Engravings by the celebrated THOMAS BEWICK have been again used, and, from being printed on China paper, will be found superior in clearness and beauty to the first impressions.

The Six Etchings now given are from newly-painted drawings by A. H. TOURRIER.

Digitized by Google

Romances of Fantasy and Humour.

(Uniform with the Old Spanish and English Romances.)

To be completed in Twelve Volumes crown 8vo, cloth or parchment, 7s. 6d. per volume,
And Illustrated with Etchings by Eminent Artists.

The Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe,

With *Biographical Essay* by JOHN H. INGRAM; and *Fourteen Original Etchings, Three Photogravures*, and a *Portrait* newly etched from a life-like Daguerreotype of the Author. In Four Volumes, crown 8vo.

Weird Tales, by E. T. W. Hoffmann,

A NEW TRANSLATION FROM THE GERMAN.

With Biographical Memoir, by J. T. BEALBY, formerly Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

With Portrait and Ten Original Etchings, by AD. LALAUZE, in Two Volumes, crown 8vo.

NOTE.—The type is distributed as the edition is printed, the impression of which is one thousand copies crown 8vo, and one hundred and fifty each large fine paper copies, with Etchings on Japanese and Whatman paper.

SOME OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Saturday Review.

"A very handsome edition, in four volumes, of the Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe. The edition is remarkable for containing the fragment called 'The Journal of Julius Rodman,' hitherto unpublished in any collection. Furthermore, it should be stated that in the new edition the works are, for the first time, intelligibly classified."

Athenæum.

"Mr. Ingram is so well known for his great knowledge of Poe, and the services he has rendered to the poet's fame, that there is little need to dwell at length on this handsome and convenient edition which he has edited for Mr. Nimmo. The tales have been classified; the poems have been chronologically arranged as they should be; the text has been corrected and revised. Both publisher and editor may be congratulated on this edition."

Notes and Queries.

"This new edition puts forward strong claims upon recognition. It is, in the first place, the most attractive collection that has yet appeared, the etchings with which it is accompanied giving it precedence over any other edition. Mr. Ingram's biographical essay is remarkable in the respect that it gives a concise, a readable, and an animated account of Poe's career."

Digitized by Google

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS—continued.

Daily Telegraph.

"The volumes before us are unquestionably the fullest and best arranged edition of Poe's writings as yet given to the world; in fact, it is the only one in which any serious attempt is made to classify the prose tales, those of Imagination being assigned to one volume and those of Humour to another, the Miscellaneous Stories and the Poems filling the third and fourth."

Pall Mall Gazette.

"Mr. John H. Ingram is well known to be a specialist on the subject of Edgar Allan Poe, himself the most insoluble of the many problems with which he mystified the world. The etchings and photogravures are most appropriate. There is something entirely harmonious with the manner of Poe in the weird Rembrandtesque effects attainable by these processes, and the artists have entered thoroughly into the spirit of their task."

Whitehall Review.

"In the empire of fantasy Hoffmann is undisputed autocrat. Indeed, that empire is itself strangely limited, and contains not only few possible rivals and peers, but very few subjects. We can easily count on the fingers of our two hands all the names that can with any show of reason be mentioned in connection with that of Hoffmann's in the part of the continent of romance where he has built his kingdom. Next and nearest to Hoffmann comes his wild American brother, Edgar Allan Poe, kinsman in mind, kinsman in riot, kinsman in melancholy death. What Mr. Bealby has done he has done well, and as his book is beautifully printed and illustrated with some delightful etchings by Lalauze, it will be a welcome friend on the shelves of the few who have long known and loved Hoffmann, and of the many who must love him if they will give themselves the pleasure of reading these ten intoxicatingly attractive stories."

British Medical Journal.

"A new translation from the German, in two volumes, with ten origina etchings by Ad. Lalauze. These tales, to many to whom they will now become known for the first time, will have a charm which they largely possess in the original, and of which they have lost little by being translated into another tongue."

Bookseller.

"An acceptable service has been rendered to students of German literature by presenting, in a handsome and compact form, the volume of the stories by Ernst Theodor Wilhelm Hoffmann, a striking figure in the most attractive period of German imaginative literature. The stories are in themselves very attractive, and would have made a reputation for a less gifted author; but Hoffmann always appeared to be capable of greater achievements, which he never realised. Carlyle said of him, 'There are the materials of a glorious poet, but no poet has been fashioned out of them.' Imagination he unquestionably possessed, fancy was still more conspicuous, and he possessed a strange, weird faculty of relating incidents which appear to have been conceived in dreams, exercising an influence over the reader which it is difficult to account for on ordinary principles of criticism. Mr. Bealby's biographical memoir is well written, and his estimate of Hoffmann's powers appear to be able and impartial. Eleven stories are included in this collection, and, besides a portrait of the author, eleven exquisite etchings by Lalauze—little gems of art."

Digitized by Google

The Characters of Jean de La Bruyère.

NEWLY RENDERED INTO ENGLISH.

With an Introduction, Biographical Memoir, and Copious Notes,

By HENRI VAN LAUN.

With Seven Etched Portraits by B. DAMMAN, and Seventeen Vignettes etched by V. FOULQUIER, and printed on China paper.

8vo, half-parchment, gilt top, 42s.

NOTE.—Three hundred copies printed, and each numbered. Type distributed.

Athenæum.

"If either the living M. Van Laun or the dead M. de La Bruyère is dissatisfied with the care and expense which the publisher has apparently devoted to the equipping of the *Characters of Jean de La Bruyère*, translated by Henri Van Laun, all we can say is that there is a very unreasonable translator in this world or a very unreasonable author in the other. Almost all the details of the book's production deserve praise."

Saturday Review.

"M. Van Laun's translation of the immortal *Caractères* deserves one recommendation at least, which may be given heartily and without stint or qualification. It is one of the handsomest books that have recently been issued from any English press or publishing house, tastefully bound, portly without being unwieldy, excellently printed, with well proportioned margins, and on paper of good colour, texture, and substance."

Daily Telegraph.

"This English rendering of La Bruyère should be welcome to all who study style. As M. Van Laun aptly remarks, 'perhaps no author is oftener quoted in Littré's "Dictionnaire de la Langue Française" than is La Bruyère.' The present edition is adorned with many etched portraits and vignettes."

Scotsman.

"La Bruyère was one of those men who have risen from time to time in France, and who, in the midst of comparatively frivolous surroundings, wrote down high and useful thoughts. The book is a repertory of wit and wisdom. It has furnished many an orator with suggestions; it is a mine from which many of the philosophers of these later days have drawn what seem to have been some of their happiest inspirations, and in its present form it will do much to foster thought and enlarge the sphere of the reader's knowledge."

Notes and Queries.

"To see M. Van Laun's English at its best, the chapter on opinions should be read. The short, crisp, epigrammatic sentences of this are reproduced in English with singular spirit and fidelity. To say that this is the best translation of La Bruyère is little. . . . He has, besides, enriched his edition with a series of admirable notes. A chief attraction of the volume has yet to be mentioned. Six portraits specially etched by M. Damman, a series of lovely headpieces etched by M. Foulquier, and a portrait of La Bruyère by the same artist, render the book one of the most sumptuous issued from the English press."

Pall Mall Gazette.

"Handsome even among the handsome books which the last few years have seen issuing in much greater numbers from the English press than at any time during the present century. The merit of this version and the remarkable beauty of the book ought pretty speedily to exhaust the limited edition which has, we understand, been printed, and which, according to a practice agreeable to collectors, if not to lovers of literature, the publisher binds himself not to reprint."

Digitized by Google

Carols and Poems

FROM THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT TIME.

Edited by A. H. BULLEN.

With Seven Illustrations newly designed by HENRY G. WELLS.

Post 8vo, full parchment, gilt top, price 10s. 6d.

NOTE.—One hundred and twenty copies printed on fine medium 8vo paper, with the illustrations on Japanese paper. Each copy numbered.

Saturday Review.

"Since the publication of Mr. Sandys's collection there have been many books issued on carols; but the most complete by far that we have met with is Mr. Bullen's new volume, 'Carols and Poems from the Fifteenth Century to the Present Time.' The preface contains an interesting account of Christmas festivities and the use of carols. Mr. Bullen has exercised great care in verifying and correcting the collections of his predecessors, and he has joined to them two modern poems by Hawker, two by Mr. William Morris, and others by Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Symonds, and Miss Rossetti. No one has been more successful than Mr. Morris in imitating the ancient carol:—

'Outlanders, whence come ye last?
The snow in the street and the wind on the door.
Through what green sea and great have ye past?
Minstrels and maids stand forth on the floor.'

Altogether this is one of the most welcome books of the season."

Spectator.

"Mr. Bullen divides his 'Carols and Poems from the Fifteenth Century to the Present Time' into three parts, 'Christmas Chants and Carols,' 'Carmina Sacra,' and 'Christmas Customs and Christmas Cheer.' These make up together between seventy and eighty poems of one kind and another. The selection has been carefully made from a wide range of authors. Indeed, it is curious to see the very mixed company which the subject of Christmas has brought together—as, indeed, it is quite right that it should. Altogether, the result is a very interesting book."

Morning Post.

"Good Christian people all, and more especially those of artistic or poetic inclinations, will feel indebted to the editor and publisher of this fascinating volume, which, bound as it is in white parchment vellum, ornamented with sprigs of holly, may fairly claim to be considered *par excellence* the gift book of the season. 'Carols and Poems' are supplemented by voluminous and interesting notes by the editor, who also contributes some very graceful dedicatory verses."

Notes and Queries.

"Mr. Bullen does not indeed pretend to cater for those who regard carols from a purely antiquarian point of view. His book is intended to be popular rather than scholarly. Scholarly none the less it is, and representative also, including as it does every form of Christmas strain, from early mysteries down to poems so modern as not previously to have seen the light."

---

14 King William Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Digitized by Google

Egyptian Obelisks.

By HENRY H. GORRINGE.

With Fifty full-page Illustrations, Thirty-one Artotypes, Eighteen Engravings, and One Chromo-lithograph.

Royal 4to, cloth elegant, price 42s.

NOTE.—This work is devoted to what may be termed the recent records of those striking monuments of history, minute particulars of the difficulties which have been experienced in the transportation of many across the high seas, and the engineering operations by which these have been overcome.

The Times.

"There is really more stirring incident in the book than in many a popular sensational novel, though much of the technical matter may be only of value to experts and engineers. But every one ought to be interested in the ingenious speculations as to the means by which the ancient Egyptians manipulated and moved the ponderous masses of stone, which may endure while the world remains as colossal monuments of their achievements."

Building and Engineering Times.

"The American engineer, pardonably enough, gives the foremost place to his own work, and we have illustrations of the mode in which he cased the obelisk after possession was given to him, how he lowered and finally conveyed it and its pedestal to New York, and there re-erected it. On taking it down it was found by an inscription on the 'crabs' which supported it that it was erected by Pontius, an architect, in the reign of Augustus Cæsar (circa 22 B.C.), and its size and weight are about the same as the obelisk on the Thames Embankment, weighing about 448,000 lbs., 69 ft. high, and 7 ft. 9 in. square at base. The greatest known obelisk erected is that of the Lateran, which weighs 1,020,000 lbs., and is as 104 to 64 in height to the obelisk on the Thames Embankment. In the quarry at Syene there is one less in height but greater in bulk, whose estimated weight is no less than 1,540,000 lbs. The smallest recorded is one at Lepsius, which only weighs some 200 lbs. Thus we have them of all sizes and weights. . . . Of the inscriptions and their purport we need here say nothing, but refer the curious to the valuable contribution to our knowledge on the subject which we owe to Lieut.-Commander Gorringe, whose handsome volume is profusely and elegantly illustrated."

Daily Telegraph.

"Lieutenant-Commander Henry Gorringe has contrived to make a volume which holds some curious matter likely to amuse the general reader, besides carrying out the primal and technical objects of the work. There is a chapter on Egyptian obelisks in general, and notes on the ancient methods of quarrying, transporting, &c., while forty full-page illustrations and numerous 'artotypes' add to the usefulness of the book."

Digitized by Google

NEW WORK by **GEORGE W. CABLE**, Author of "Old Creole Days," "The Grandissimes," &c.

The Creoles of Louisiana.

With Fifty Full-page Illustrations.

Square 8vo, cloth, gilt top, price 10s. 6d.

Daily News.

"Mr. Cable's account of the Creoles and history of Louisiana are curious in themselves and full of picturesque interest. Necessarily the story centres in the capital of the province, which, together with its environs, furnishes a considerable proportion of the subjects of Mr. Pennell's charming pictures. The story of the battle of New Orleans, when the British forces were so disastrously, though not ingloriously, defeated under the Duke of Wellington's brother-in-law, Pakenham, by General Jackson, is told with spirit in a narrative which the reader will find it interesting to compare with the accounts by English authorities."

Daily Telegraph.

"Written with a purity which is itself indicative of ancestral or patriotic pride, this book is full of interest, and its many illustrations of the picturesque old city, which looks as though it had been transported bodily from Southern Europe, increase the value of the text."

St. James's Gazette.

"This book recalls the period when France bid fair to be a greater colonial power than England, when her settlements in America were apparently more flourishing than ours, and when in India her influence was greater. No man is more competent than Mr. Cable for the work he has here undertaken. He knows his subject thoroughly—the land and the people alike; while as a writer he belongs to the elect, who are 'born, not made.' His work is one of great interest and lasting value."

Scotsman.

"Mr. Cable is the poet of the Creole and of New Orleans. He has written for the delectation, not merely of the American public, but of the whole world, a series of stories of Creole life in New Orleans, which for tenderness and beauty are nowhere surpassed. . . . It is a book in which there is much of historical value told by one who loves his subject, and who has always some touch of tenderness with which to light up the dark passages. . . . . There is lucidity in every sentence."

Manchester Examiner.

"Mr. Cable is now an authority about Creoles, and he provides us with a definition which effectually shuts out all idea of negro blood; he calls them "the French-speaking native portion of the ruling class" in Louisiana, and they do not extend much beyond the city of New Orleans. The very beautiful volume before us is really a history of the short but chequered life of this city, from its French foundation to the present time. History does much to make a city picturesque, and the picturesque look which New Orleans has more than any other American city is not a little owing to the time when French and Spanish banners waved over her. The book contains some charming illustrations."

---

14 King William Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Digitized by Google

A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys.

By NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

With Thirty-six New and Original Illustrations by the eminent American Artist, FREDERIC S. CHURCH.

Royal 8vo, cloth elegant, price 10s. 6d.

Extract from the Author's Preface.

"In performing this pleasant task—for it has been really a task fit for hot weather, and one of the most agreeable, of a literary kind, which he ever undertook—the author has not always thought it necessary to write downward in order to meet the comprehension of children. He has generally suffered the theme to soar, whenever such was its tendency, and when he himself was buoyant enough to follow without an effort. Children possess an unestimated sensibility to whatever is deep or high in imagination or feeling, so long as it is simple likewise. It is only the artificial and the complex that bewilder them."

Magazine of Art.

"The new edition of Hawthorne's delightful 'Wonder Book,' which has just been issued by Mr. Nimmo, should be one of the books of the season. Hawthorne retold the old stories—'King Midas,' the 'Quest of the Golden Apples,' the 'Slaying of the Gorgon,' and all the rest of them—so beautifully and well, that his work is even now as full of life and charm as it was when it was first given to the world."

The Graphic.

"Perhaps English boys and girls are not over-familiar with Nathaniel Hawthorne's delightful rendering of classic myths, so that the present handsome edition of a 'Wonder Book' will form an acceptable gift. Mr. Church's engravings are cleverly drawn, and as imaginative as the legends they illustrate."

Daily Telegraph.

"It is now almost thirty-five years since the author of 'The Scarlet Letter' and 'The House with the Seven Gables' offered his re-readings of classical myths to a rising generation which has since risen, and is giving place to younger comers. By the very indestructibility of these immortal fables, they are legitimate subjects, as the author pleads, 'for every age to clothe with its own garniture of manners and sentiment, and to imbue with its own morality.'"

Literary World.

"The present edition of the 'Wonder Book' is probably the handsomest form in which it has ever appeared. It is beautifully illustrated with thirty-six new original drawings by an eminent artist, and has further the attractions of fine paper and printing and handsome binding. In its new dress it ought to find many new friends, and revisit many of the old ones too."

Illustrated London News.

"Nathaniel Hawthorne, prince of American story-tellers, wrote a 'Wonder Book for Girls and Boys,' consisting of six fine old legends of classical origin, or of still remoter antiquity, which he interfused with Gothic or German sentiment, and made them attractive to modern youthful minds, and not yet worn out by two or three thousand years' popularity among different nations."

Digitized by Google

A VERY FUNNY ILLUSTRATED HUMOROUS BOOK.

Stuff and Nonsense.

By A. B. FROST,

The Illustrator of Carroll's "Rhyme and Reason."

Small 4to, illustrated boards, price 6s.

Mr. Frost has made a wonderfully amusing and clever book. There are in all more than one hundred pictures, many with droll verses and ludicrous jingles. Others are unaccompanied by any text, for no one knows better than Mr. Frost how to tell a funny story, in the funniest way, with his artist's pencil.

Standard.

"This is a book which will please equally people of all ages. The illustrations are not only extremely funny, but they are drawn with wonderful artistic ability, and are full of life and action.

"It is far and away the best book of 'Stuff and Nonsense' which has appeared for a long time."

Times.

"It is a most grotesque medley of mad ideas, carried out nevertheless with a certain regard to consistency, if not to probability."

Figaro.

"The verses and jingles which accompany some of the illustrations are excellent fooling, but Mr. Frost is also able to tell a ludicrous story with his pencil only."

Press.

"The most facetious bit of wit that has been penned for many a day, both in design and text, is Mr. A. B. Frost's 'Stuff and Nonsense.' 'A Tale of a Cat' is funny, 'The Balloonists' is perhaps rather extravagant, but nothing can outdo the wit of 'The Powers of the Human Eye,' whilst 'Ye Æsthete, ye Boy, and ye Bullfrog' may be described as a 'roarer.' Mr. Frost's pen and pencil know how to chronicle fun, and their outcomes should not be overlooked."

Graphic.

"Grotesque in the extreme. His jokes will rouse many a laugh."

Daily News.

"There is really a marvellous abundance of fun in this volume of a harmless kind."

Athenæum.

"Clever sketches of grotesque incidents."

Literary World.

"A hundred and twenty excruciatingly funny sketches."

Digitized by Google

The History of England,

FROM THE FIRST INVASION BY THE ROMANS TO THE ACCESSION OF WILLIAM AND MARY IN 1688.

By JOHN LINGARD, D.D.

Copyright Edition, with Ten Etched Portraits. In Ten Vols. demy 8vo, cloth, £5, 5s.

This New Copyright Library Edition of "Lingard's History of England," besides containing all the latest notes and emendations of the Author, with Memoir, is enriched with Ten Portraits, newly etched by Damman, of the following personages, viz.:—Dr. Lingard, Edward I., Edward III., Cardinal Wolsey, Cardinal Pole, Elizabeth, James I., Cromwell, Charles II., James II.

The Times.

"No greater service can be rendered to literature than the republication, in a handsome and attractive form, of works which time and the continued approbation of the world have made classical. . . . The accuracy of Lingard's statements on many points of controversy, as well as the genial sobriety of his view, is now recognised."

The Tablet.

"It is with the greatest satisfaction that we welcome this new edition of Dr. Lingard's 'History of England.' It has long been a desideratum. . . . No general history of England has appeared which can at all supply the place of Lingard, whose painstaking industry and careful research have dispelled many a popular delusion, whose candour always carries his reader with him, and whose clear and even style is never fatiguing."

The Spectator.

"We are glad to see that the demand for Dr. Lingard's *England* still continues. Few histories give the reader the same impression of exhaustive study. This new edition is excellently printed, and illustrated with ten portraits of the greatest personages in our history."

Dublin Review.

"It is pleasant to notice that the demand for Lingard continues to be such that publishers venture on a well got-up library edition like the one before us. More than sixty years have gone since the first volume of the first edition was published; many equally pretentious histories have appeared during that space, and have more or less disappeared since, yet Lingard lives—is still a recognised and respected authority."

The Scotsman.

"There is no need, at this time of day, to say anything in vindication of the importance, as a standard work, of Dr. Lingard's 'History of England.' . . . Its intrinsic merits are very great. The style is lucid, pointed, and puts no strain upon the reader; and the printer and publisher have neglected nothing that could make this—what it is likely long to remain—the standard edition of a work of great historical and literary value."

Daily Telegraph.

"True learning, untiring research, a philosophic temper, and the possession of a graphic, pleasing style, were the qualities which the author brought to his task, and they are displayed in every chapter of his history."

Weekly Register.

"In the full force of the word a scholarly book. Lingard's History is destined to bear a part of growing importance in English education."

Manchester Examiner.

"He stands alone in his own school; he is the only representative of his own phase of thought. The critical reader will do well to compare him with those who went before and those who came after him."

Digitized by Google

Imaginary Conversations.

By WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.

In Five Vols. crown 8vo, cloth, 30s.

FIRST SERIES—CLASSICAL DIALOGUES, GREEK AND ROMAN.
SECOND SERIES—DIALOGUES OF SOVEREIGNS AND STATESMEN.
THIRD SERIES—DIALOGUES OF LITERARY MEN.
FOURTH SERIES—DIALOGUES OF FAMOUS WOMEN.
FIFTH SERIES—MISCELLANEOUS DIALOGUES.

NOTE.—*This New Edition is printed from the last Edition of his Works, revised and edited by John Forster, and is published by arrangement with the Proprietors of the Copyright of Walter Savage Landor's Works.*

The Times.

"The abiding character of the interest excited by the writings of Walter Savage Landor, and the existence of a numerous band of votaries at the shrine of his refined genius, have been lately evidenced by the appearance of the most remarkable of Landor's productions, his 'Imaginary Conversations,' taken from the last edition of his works. To have them in a separate publication will be convenient to a great number of readers."

The Athenæum.

"The appearance of this tasteful reprint would seem to indicate that the present generation is at last waking up to the fact that it has neglected a great writer, and if so, it is well to begin with Landor's most adequate work. It is difficult to overpraise the 'Imaginary Conversations.' The eulogiums bestowed on the 'Conversations' by Emerson will, it is to be hoped, lead many to buy this book."

Scotsman.

"An excellent service has been done to the reading public by presenting to it, in five compact volumes, these 'Conversations.' Admirably printed on good paper, the volumes are handy in shape, and indeed the edition is all that could be desired. When this has been said, it will be understood what a boon has been conferred on the reading public; and it should enable many comparatively poor men to enrich their libraries with a work that will have an enduring interest."

Literary World.

"That the 'Imaginary Conversations' of Walter Savage Landor are not better known is no doubt largely due to their inaccessibility to most readers, by reason of their cost. This new issue, while handsome enough to find a place in the best of libraries, is not beyond the reach of the ordinary bookbuyer."

Edinburgh Review.

"How rich in scholarship! how correct, concise, and pure in style! how full of imagination, wit, and humour! how well informed, how bold in speculation, how various in interest, how universal in sympathy! In these dialogues —making allowance for every shortcoming or excess—the most familiar and the most august shapes of the past are reanimated with vigour, grace, and beauty. We are in the high and goodly company of wits and men of letters; of churchmen, lawyers, and statesmen; of party-men, soldiers, and kings; of the most tender, delicate, and noble women; and of figures that seem this instant to have left for us the Agora or the Schools of Athens, the Forum or the Senate of Rome."

Digitized by Google

The Fables of La Fontaine.

A REVISED TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH.

With 24 original full-page Etchings and Portrait by A. DELIERRE.

Super royal 8vo, half parchment elegant, gilt top, 31s. 6d.

NOTE.—*500 copies printed. Type distributed.*

Athenæum.

"Mr. Nimmo has issued 'The Fables of La Fontaine,' with etchings by A. Delierre, who has designed and drawn them in a manner which is curiously in keeping with the date, and even with the taste, of La Fontaine. They are neatly delineated and prettily composed."

Bookseller.

"We are tempted to linger over these beautiful etchings; and how gratified will be the fortunate recipients of such a book, elegant as it is in style and workmanship, and embellished with drawings of the highest merit."

Spectator.

"This translation has the recommendation of being sufficiently easy and readable. The merits of the etchings with which it is illustrated are evident."

Art Journal.

"An admirable translation, founded on that of Robert Thompson; and the etchings which lighten this present edition are very good."

Daily News.

"The force and breadth of M. Delierre's etchings contrast favourably with the pretty feebleness which is apt to characterise the efforts of the etcher's needle when employed on book illustrations. The elegant simplicity of the vellum back and grey-green covers, with their decorative ornaments, is very pleasing to the eye."

Harper's Monthly.

"The happy rendering of the quaint and piquant fables, and the perfection with which the printer and binder have done their work, make the volume everything that could be desired."

Daily Telegraph.

"This beautiful edition of 'The Fables of La Fontaine,' which now appears in a form that is highly creditable to the publisher as well as to the printer, is enriched with etchings by Delierre, which are admirable alike for quality and appropriateness."

Westminster Review.

"A splendid edition of 'The Fables of La Fontaine,' with twenty-five original etchings by Delierre. Of these we cannot speak too highly, and select for special commendation the portrait of La Fontaine, the Heron, the Peacock, and the Ducks and Tortoise."

Digitized by Google

The Fan.

By OCTAVE UZANNE.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL AVRIL.

Royal 8vo, cloth, gilt top, 31s. 6d.

The Sunshade, Muff, and Glove.

By OCTAVE UZANNE.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL AVRIL.

Royal 8vo, cloth, gilt top, 31s. 6d.

NOTE.—*The above are English Editions of the unique and artistic works "L'Eventail" and "L'Ombrelle," recently published in Paris, and now difficult to be procured, as no new Edition is to be produced. 500 copies only are printed.*

Saturday Review.

"An English counterpart of the well-known French books by Octave Uzanne, with Paul Avril's charming illustrations."

Standard.

"It gives a complete history of fans of all ages and places; the illustrations are dainty in the extreme. Those who wish to make a pretty and appropriate present to a young lady cannot do better than purchase 'The Fan.'"

Athenæum.

"The letterpress comprises much amusing 'chit-chat,' and is more solid than it pretends to be. This *brochure* is worth reading; nay, it is worth keeping."

Art Journal.

"At first sight it would seem that material could never be found to fill even a volume; but the author, in dealing with his first subject alone, 'The Sunshade,' says he could easily have filled a dozen volumes of this emblem of sovereignty. The work is delightfully illustrated in a novel manner by Paul Avril, the pictures which meander about the work being printed in varied colours."

Daily News.

"The pretty adornments of the margin of these artistic volumes, the numerous ornamental designs, and the pleasant vein of the author's running commentary, render these the most attractive monographs ever published on a theme which interests so many enthusiastic collectors."

Glasgow Herald.

"'I have but collected a heap of foreign flowers, and brought of my own only the string which binds them together,' is the fitting quotation with which M. Uzanne closes the preface to his volume on woman's ornaments. The monograph on the sunshade, called by the author 'a little tumbled fantasy,' occupies fully one-half of the volume. It begins with a pleasant invented mythology of the parasol; glances at the sunshade in all countries and times; mentions many famous umbrellas; quotes a number of clever sayings. . . . To these remarks on the spirit of the book it is necessary to add that the body of it is a dainty marvel of paper, type, and binding; and that what meaning it has looks out on the reader through a hundred argus-eyes of many-tinted photogravures, exquisitely designed by M. Paul Avril."

Westminster Review.

"The most striking merit of the book is the entire appropriateness both of the letterpress and illustrations to the subject treated. M. Uzanne's style has all the airy grace and sparkling brilliancy of the *petit instrument* whose praise he celebrates; and M. Avril's drawings seem to conduct us into an enchanted world where everything but fans are forgotten."

Digitized by Google

A Handbook of Gastronomy

(BRILLAT-SAVARIN'S "Physiologie du Goût").

New and Complete Translation, with 52 original Etchings by A. LALAUZE.

Printed on China Paper.

8vo, half parchment, gilt top, 42s.

NOTE.—*300 copies printed, and each numbered. Type distributed.* (*Out of print.*)

The Times.

"The translator's notes are interesting and scholarly; and M. Lalauze's etchings are so prettily executed, that they form quite an attractive gallery of bijou pictures."

The Athenæum.

"A *new* and *complete* translation of Brillat-Savarin's 'Physiologie du Goût,' former editions of this piquant work being more or less incomplete. The translation is lively, clear, and practically exact. No man who likes his dinner ought to dine without having read this book at least once. The vignettes and *culs-de-lampe* are charming, and the only cause for regret is that fifty-two is not half so many as we could have welcomed."

Daily Telegraph.

"A numbered edition of the 'Physiologie du Goût,' translated afresh into English, and illustrated with upwards of fifty Etchings by Lalauze. It is a volume for connoisseurs."

The Saturday Review.

"The translation is a decidedly good one. The paper is splendid, and taken as a whole the work has been well done. Therefore we would say, read 'A Handbook of Gastronomy,' and as Brillat-Savarin himself would put it, 'You will see something wonderful.'"

Scotsman.

"The excellence of this volume depends not only upon the goodness of the translation of Savarin's book—it is all that could be desired—but upon the general beauty of its get up, and its illustrations by Lalauze."

Illustrated London News.

"One of the most sumptuous books of the season is the 'Handbook of Gastronomy,' being a new translation of Brillat-Savarin's 'Physiologie du Goût.' The English translation has been executed with the minutest care and the most thorough appreciativeness. Among its charms, with its handsome paper, uncut edges, and 'river of type running through a meadow of margin,' are the fifty-two exquisite illustrative etchings by A. Lalauze, printed on China paper in the text."

Glasgow Herald.

"In every respect a dainty volume, and replete with excellent matter throughout."

Digitized by Google

Imperial 8vo, fine paper.

The Complete Angler;

OR, THE CONTEMPLATIVE MAN'S RECREATION OF IZAAK WALTON AND CHARLES COTTON.

Edited by JOHN MAJOR.

This Extra-illustrated Edition of THE COMPLETE ANGLER is specially designed for Collectors of this famous work; and in order to enable them either to take from or add to the Illustrations, it will simply be issued unbound, but folded and collated.

The Illustrations consist of **Fifty Steel Plates**, designed by T. STOTHARD, R.A., JAMES INSKIP, EDWARD HASSELL, DELAMOTTE, BINKENBOOM, W. HIXON, SIR FRANCIS SYKES, Bart., PINE, &c. &c., and engraved by well-known Engravers. Also **Six Original Etchings and Two Portraits**, as well as **Seventy-four Engravings on Wood** by various Eminent Artists.

To this is added a PRACTICAL TREATISE on FLIES and FLY HOOKS, by the late JOHN JACKSON, of Tanfield Mill, with **Ten Steel Plates**, coloured, representing 120 Flies, natural and artificial.

One Hundred and Twenty copies only are printed, each of which is numbered.

A HANDSOME LARGE FINE PAPER EDITION OF

The Works of William Hickling Prescott.

In 15 Volumes 8vo, cloth (not sold separately), 25s. per vol.

With 30 Portraits printed on India paper.

Athenæum.

"In point of style Prescott ranks with the ablest English historians, and paragraphs may be found in his volumes in which the grace and elegance of Addison are combined with Robertson's majestic cadence and Gibbon's brilliancy."

J. Lothrop Motley.

"Wherever the English language is spoken over the whole earth his name is perfectly familiar. We all of us know what his place was in America. But I can also say that in eight years (1851–59) passed abroad I never met a single educated person of whatever nation that was not acquainted with his fame, and hardly one who had not read his works. No living American name is so widely spread over the whole world."

---

14 King William Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Digitized by Google

Types from Spanish Story;

OR,

THE OLD MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF CASTILE.

By JAMES MEW.

With 36 Proof Etchings on Japanese paper by R. DE LOS RIOS.

Super royal 8vo, elegant and *recherché* Binding after the 18th Century, 31s. 6d.

The Times.

"It was a happy thought that of illustrating the most famous Spanish or Franco-Spanish romances with this blending of the real, the quaint, and the fantastic. The volume is a worthy key and companion to the most entertaining books of the witty authors who sprinkled their pages with the 'Spanish salt' that Richard Ford appreciated so thoroughly."

Daily Telegraph.

"Mr. James Mew displays both scholarship and geniality in his critical analyses of romances, and has invested them collectively with an additional interest. The etchings of Senor de los Rios enrich the book in such a manner as to make it a picture-gallery in boards. Indeed the cover itself is like the exterior of a graceful edifice, designed as a storehouse of art."

Athenæum.

"The etchings have considerable spirit, richness of handling, tone, and other picturesque qualities."

Glasgow Herald.

"The illustrative story essays have been selected chiefly from books which may be taken to represent the classic literature of romance in Spain. The idea is a good one, and has been industriously worked out, the result being the present handsome volume."

Standard.

"The etchings are charming alike in drawing and execution, and afford an admirable illustration of manners and customs in Spain in the days of Don Quixote. The printing and get up are worthy of the illustrations."

Scotsman.

"It is a volume which ought to be greatly prized because of its illustrations. It is in all respects handsome."

Publishers' Circular.

"A right grateful book to take up from a drawing-room table for half an hour. Its chapters equal in number its illustrations, each of which is a genume piece of art work. The binding is a choice and appropriate bit of colouring."

Digitized by Google

Old English Romances.

Illustrated with Etchings.

In 12 Vols. crown 8vo, parchment boards or cloth, 7s. 6d. per vol.

NOTE.—A few copies printed on large fine white paper, with etchings on Japanese and Whatman paper. (*Out of print.*)

THE LIFE AND OPINIONS OF TRISTRAM SHANDY, GENTLEMAN. By LAURENCE STERNE. In Two Vols. With Eight Etchings by DAMMAN from Original Drawings by HARRY FURNISS.

THE OLD ENGLISH BARON: A GOTHIC STORY. By CLARA REEVE.

ALSO

THE CASTLE OF OTRANTO: A GOTHIC STORY. By HORACE WALPOLE. In One Vol. With Two Portraits and Four Original Drawings by A. H. TOURRIER, Etched by DAMMAN.

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS ENTERTAINMENTS. In Four Vols. Carefully Revised and Corrected from the Arabic by JONATHAN SCOTT, I.L.D., Oxford. With Nineteen Original Etchings by AD. LALAUZE.

THE HISTORY OF THE CALIPH VATHEK. By WM. BECKFORD. With Notes, Critical and Explanatory.

ALSO

RASSELAS, PRINCE OF ABYSSINIA. By SAMUEL JOHNSON. In One Vol. With Portrait of BECKFORD, and Four Original Etchings, designed by A. H. TOURRIER, and Etched by DAMMAN.

ROBINSON CRUSOE. By DANIEL DEFOE. In Two Vols. With Biographical Memoir, Illustrative Notes, and Eight Etchings by M. MOUILLERON, and Portrait by L. FLAMENG.

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS. By JONATHAN SWIFT. With Five Etchings and Portrait by AD. LALAUZE.

A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY. By LAURENCE STERNE.

ALSO

A TALE OF A TUB. By JONATHAN SWIFT. In One Vol. With Five Etchings and Portrait by ED. HEDOUIN.

The Times.

"Among the numerous handsome reprints which the publishers of the day vie with each other in producing, we have seen nothing of greater merit than this series of twelve volumes. Those who have read these masterpieces of the last century in the homely garb of the old editions may be gratified with the opportunity of perusing them with the advantages of large clear print and illustrations of a quality which is rarely bestowed on such re-issues. The series deserves every commendation."

Digitized by Google

Athenæum.

"A well-printed and tasteful issue of the 'Thousand and One Nights. The volumes are convenient in size, and illustrated with Lalauze's well-known etchings."

Magazine of Art.

"The text of the new four-volume edition of the 'Thousand and One Nights' just issued by Mr. Nimmo is that revised by Jonathan Scott, from the French of Galland; it presents the essentials of these wonderful stories with irresistible authority and directness, and, as mere reading, it is as satisfactory as ever. The edition, which is limited to a thousand copies, is beautifully printed and remarkably well produced. It is illustrated with twenty etchings by Lalauze. . . . In another volume of this series Beckford's wild and gloomy 'Vathek' appears side by side with Johnson's admirable 'Rasselas.'"

Glasgow Herald.

"The merits of this new issue lie in exquisite clearness of type; completeness; notes and biographical notices, short and pithy; and a number of very fine etchings and portraits. In the 'Robinson Crusoe,' besides the well-known portrait of Defoe by Flameng, there are eight exceedingly beautiful etchings by Mouilleron . . . . In fine keeping with the other volumes of the series, uniform in style and illustrations, and as one of the volumes of his famous Old English Romances, Mr. Nimmo has also issued the 'Rasselas' of Johnson and the 'Vathek' of Beckford."

Westminster Review.

"Mr. Nimmo has added to his excellent series of 'Old English Romances three new volumes, of which two are devoted to 'Tristram Shandy,' while the third contains 'The Old English Baron' and 'The Castle of Otranto.' Take them as they stand, and without attributing to them any qualities but what they really possess, the whole series was well worth reprinting in the elegant and attractive form in which they are now presented to us."

Essays from the "North American Review."

Edited by ALLEN THORNDIKE RICE.

Demy 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.

Saturday Review.

"A collection of interesting essays from the *North American Review*, beginning with a criticism on the works of Walter Scott, and ending with papers written by Mr. Lowell and Mr. O. W. Holmes. The variety of the essays is noteworthy."

Digitized by Google

Old Spanish Romances.

Illustrated with Etchings.

In 12 Vols. crown 8vo, parchment boards or cloth, 7s. 6d. per vol.

NOTE.—A few copies printed on large fine paper with etchings on Japanese and Whatman paper. (*Out of print.*)

THE HISTORY OF DON QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA. Translated from the Spanish of MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SAAVEDRA by MOTTEUX. With copious Notes (including the Spanish Ballads), and an Essay on the Life and Writings of CERVANTES by JOHN G. LOCKHART. Preceded by a Short Notice of the Life and Works of PETER ANTHONY MOTTEUX by HENRI VAN LAUN. Illustrated with Sixteen Original Etchings by R. DE LOS RIOS. Four Volumes.

LAZARILLO DE TORMES. By Don DIEGO MENDOZA. Translated by THOMAS ROSCOE. And **GUZMAN D'ALFARACHE.** By MATEO ALEMAN. Translated by BRADY. Illustrated with Eight Original Etchings by R. DE LOS RIOS. Two Volumes.

ASMODEUS. By LE SAGE. Translated from the French. Illustrated with Four Original Etchings by R. DE LOS RIOS.

THE BACHELOR OF SALAMANCA. By LE SAGE. Translated from the French by JAMES TOWNSEND. Illustrated with Four Original Etchings by R. DE LOS RIOS.

VANILLO GONZALES; or, The Merry Bachelor. By LE SAGE. Translated from the French. Illustrated with Four Original Etchings by R. DE LOS RIOS.

THE ADVENTURES OF GIL BLAS OF SANTILLANE. Translated from the French of LE SAGE by TOBIAS SMOLLETT. With Biographical and Critical Notice of LE SAGE by GEORGE SAINTSBURY. New Edition, carefully revised. Illustrated with Twelve Original Etchings by R. DE LOS RIOS. Three Volumes.

The Times.

"This prettily printed and prettily illustrated collection of Spanish Romances deserve their welcome from all students of seventeenth century literature."

Daily Telegraph.

"A handy and beautiful edition of the works of the Spanish masters of romance. . . . We may say of this edition of the immortal work of Cervantes that it is most tastefully and admirably executed, and that it is embellished with a series of striking etchings from the pen of the Spanish artist De los Rios."

Scotsman.

"Handy in form, they are well printed from clear type, and are got up with much elegance; the etchings are full of humour and force. The reading public have reason to congratulate themselves that so neat, compact, and well arranged an edition of romances that can never die is put within their reach. The publisher has spared no pains with them."

Saturday Review.

"Mr. Nimmo has just brought out a series of Spanish prose works in twelve finely got-up volumes."

Digitized by Google

A Cursory History of Swearing.

By JULIAN SHARMAN.

Post 8vo, cloth, gilt top, price 7s. 6d.

"Ha! this fellow is worse than me; what, does he swear with pen and ink?"
THE TATLER.

Notes and Queries.

"A difficult task is accomplished with as much delicacy and taste as could well be expected. The 'History of Swearing' is, indeed, both philosophical and scholarly."

St. James' Gazette.

"Mr. Sharman has written a very interesting book on an ancient custom which is now falling into decline."

Scotsman.

"The book is one of great interest. Some curious facts are brought to light in it, and a good deal of industry on the part of Mr. Sharman is proved. The volume is admirably got up, and it is likely to take its place as one of those curious monographs which attain a high value in the book market."

The World.

"The account of 'The Scufflers' Club' is amusing, and there is much quaint lore and there are some good stories in Mr. Sharman's volume, which is, moreover, very well bound and printed—no slight advantage in a book of this class."

Bookseller.

"Throughout it is uniformly interesting and genial. There is a certain dash of kindly Bohemianism, and a broad, humanising feeling which gives a fine flavour to the book. Altogether it is both a curious and a pleasant production."

Glasgow Herald.

"To any one who cares to go into the matter, Mr. Sharman's book promises some reward, as he has there brought forward some very curious and interesting information."

Publishers' Circular.

"This quaintly but appropriately-titled volume takes us into a bypath of literary history, and from the early oath-taking, half pagan, half barbaric, down to all the modern varieties of the curse, he traces the growth and progress of the habit of using expressions which are so often sacred in their origin, although in modern parlance they have reached a secular if not a vicious platform. The appendix to the book contains some interesting documentary evidence on the matters dealt with in the preceding pages."

Digitized by Google

The Imitation of Christ.

FOUR BOOKS.

Translated from the Latin by Rev. W. BENHAM, B.D.,

Rector of St. Edmund, King and Martyr, Lombard Street.

With Ten Illustrations by J. P. LAURENS, etched by LEOPOLD FLAMENG.

Crown 8vo, cloth or parchment boards, 10s. 6d.

Scotsman.

"We have not seen a more beautiful edition of 'The Imitation of Christ' than this one for many a day."

Magazine of Art.

"This new edition of the 'Imitation' may fairly be regarded as a work of art. It is well and clearly printed; the paper is excellent; each page has its peculiar border, and it is illustrated with ten etchings. Further than that the translation is Mr. Benham's, we need say nothing more."

BOOK-CORNER PROTECTORS.

Metal Tips carefully prepared for placing on the Corners of Books to preserve them from injury while passing through the Post Office or being sent by Carrier.

Extract from "The Times," April 18th.

"That the publishers and booksellers second the efforts of the Post Office authorities in endeavouring to convey books without damage happening to them is evident from the tips which they use to protect the corners from injury during transit."

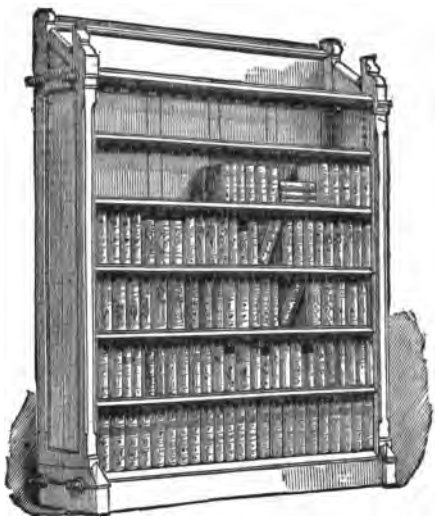
1s. 6d. per Gross, nett.

---

14 King William Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Digitized by Google

The American Patent Portable Book-Case.



For Students, Barristers, Home Libraries, &c.

THIS Book-case will be found to be made of very solid and durable material, and of a neat and elegant design. The shelves may be adjusted for books of any size, and will hold from 150 to 300 volumes. As it requires neither nails, screws, or glue, it may be taken to pieces in a few minutes, and reset up in another room or house, where it would be inconvenient to carry a large frame.

Full Height, 5 ft. 11½ in.; Width, 3 ft. 8 in.; Depth of Shelf, 10½ in.

Black Walnut, price £6, 6s. nett.

"The accompanying sketch illustrates a handy portable book-case of American manufacture, which Mr. NIMMO has provided. It is quite different from an ordinary article of furniture, such as upholsterers inflict upon the public, as it is designed expressly for holding the largest possible number of books in the smallest possible amount of space. One of the chief advantages which these book-cases possess is the ease with which they may be taken apart and put together again. No nails or metal screws are employed, nothing but the hand is required to dismantle or reconstruct the case. The parts fit together with mathematical precision; and, from a package of boards of very moderate dimensions, a firm and substantial book-case can be erected in the space of a few minutes. Appearances have by no means been overlooked; the panelled sides, bevelled edges, and other simple ornaments, give to the cases a very neat and tasteful look. For students, or others whose occupation may involve frequent change of residence, these book-cases will be found most handy and desirable, while, at the same time, they are so substantial, well-made, and convenient, that they will be found equally suitable for the library at home."

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

HDI
HW 37KV B

THE BORROWER WILL BE CHARGED AN OVERDUE FEE IF THIS BOOK IS NOT RETURNED TO THE LIBRARY ON OR BEFORE THE LAST DATE STAMPED BELOW. NON-RECEIPT OF OVERDUE NOTICES DOES NOT EXEMPT THE BORROWER FROM OVERDUE FEES.

CANCELLED
DEC 1 8 1987
2486622

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google